

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, May 30, 2013

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Make-up wish

Teenager is given a treat after stays in hospital

Page 3



N-ice to see you

Family enjoys return trip to Rome thanks to mayor

Page 8



Silver service

Jordanne spearheads national team triumph

Page 36



Councils' staff may strike on pay offer

THOUSANDS of council staff across the West Midlands could strike over a 'paltry' one per cent pay rise offer.

Unison is asking members whether they want to take industrial action after local government workers were offered their first pay increase in three years.

They say the offer is much lower than private sector staff have received in recent years. The union's national leaders say they believe it is the best offer achievable by negotiation, and that only industrial action can achieve an improved offer.

They are now holding a ballot before. In Dudley and Sandwell the union represents 8,000 workers, along with 4,000 in Walsall, 5,000 in Wolverhampton and 6,500 in Staffordshire.

Sandwell branch secretary Richard Alonso said: "In terms of the hardship our workers have suffered we don't feel that we can recommend them to accept this offer."

Dudley Council leader and vice-chairman of the Local Government Association David Sparks said: "An offer has been made aimed at the lower end of the pay scale."

Wolverhampton branch secretary Adrian Turner said: "It was important to seek the views of as many of our members as possible on this paltry offer."

Power cut at safari park

FAMILIES were stranded on rides and hundreds more forced to leave West Midland Safari Park early following a power cut.

People were stuck on rides including the Twister Coaster and Wild River Rafting, for up to 10 minutes.

The cut, caused by a cable fault, took place during one of the attraction's busiest days of the year after the electricity went down around 2.45pm on Sunday.

People were seen leaving in their drives as staff were forced to shut rides.

MOTHER SAVED BY HER LITTLE HERO

by Andrew Turton

QUICK-THINKING Dudley schoolboy Kyle Smith has been hailed a hero after saving his mother's life when she collapsed at the family home.

Sarah Gwynne took a turn for the worse after collapsing in the kitchen of the home that she shares with her two young children in Brierley Hill.

She hit her head as she fell while fetching a drink for her daughter Sophie, aged four.

But young Kyle, who is a keen Manchester United fan, stayed cool, calm and collected to call his grandmother for help and looked after his sister until she arrived and called in paramedics. "I believe that he has saved her life," said his grandmother Teresa Spittle.

"He has been marvellous. Especially to look after his sister as well."

"We don't know what would have happened without him."

Sarah had arrived back home, in Pritchard Street, after collecting her children from Hawbush Primary School on Tuesday afternoon.

But minutes after they got home Sarah said she began to feel disorientated and unsteady on her feet. Suddenly, while standing in the kitchen she fell, making a loud bang as she struck her head.

Minutes after she had blacked out, Sarah staggered to her feet but only managed a few steps into the lounge before she suffered her second blackout on the sofa.

"I don't know how long I was out for but all I can remember is just getting to my feet but feeling disorientated," she said.

Fainting

The 25-year-old suffers from Vasovagal syncope, which causes fainting following a drop in blood pressure that may be caused by a heart condition. Kyle, aged eight, called his grandmother Teresa, aged 42, on the landline and told her his mother had fainted. She said she stood in disbelief after being told the news. "I couldn't believe what he was saying," she said. "He was the one staying calm when my first reaction was to panic." Teresa dashed from her home nearby in Moor Street to help.

She had come home from her main job as a respite carer for Dudley Council, and had it been minutes later, she would have left home to go to her second job in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank.

After dialing 999 a paramedic arrived but was unable to rouse Sarah. She was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital where doctors have ordered further tests. Sarah The family are now planning to buy Kyle a new mobile phone and store it full of emergency numbers in case Sarah collapses again. His mother said: "He is a little hero and I'm really proud of him."



Kyle Smith stayed calm after his mother Sarah Gwynne, back left, had a fall. He looked after his sister Sophie and phoned his gran Teresa Spittle, back right, before paramedics came

Mistakes over jabs admitted by bosses

SOME children have been mistakenly vaccinated twice against the same diseases.

Health bosses in Dudley have blamed bad records which leave nurses unsure of a child's age or if they have been vaccinated before.

So far this year, four children in the borough have been found to have wrongly been given a second dose of a vaccination. There were 25 children who suffered the same mistake in the last financial year.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, one of the organisations which have taken over the work of Primary Care Trusts, said there were 'fewer than 40 errors' reported in the borough each year.

Rebecca Bartholomew, the group's chief quality and nursing officer, said: "Over the past 12 months we were made aware by practices of a small number of cases where children were administered the incorrect dose of an immunisation.

She said most mistakes were a result of nurses giving jabs not being able to see medical records.

Bad area for horse care

A BEAUTY spot in Dudley has been described as one of the worst areas in the West Midlands for horse welfare following residents' concerns over the state of some animals grazing at the site.

Campaigners have demanded an improvement in the care and treatment of the horses left grazing on land at Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Pensnett.

Officials and councillors from Dudley Council have joined West Midlands Police and the RSPCA to hold meetings looking at ways to improve the situation.

The RSPCA has now started a welfare plan called the Equine Link Project to raise awareness among horse owners. The organisation has held an awareness day with horse owners ear.

● Standstill – Page 4

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NEWS**CONTENTS**

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	15
Puzzle Page	22
TV Listings	19-21
Property	23-25
Motoring	26-29
Classified	30-34
Sport	35-36

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Tracey rubs shoulders with the royals



IT was a day of fancy frocks, cucumber sandwiches, miniature cakes and royalty for a Brierley Hill ambulance worker at a Royal Garden Party.

Tracey Cole has worked at West Midlands Ambulance Service for about 15 years and jumped at the chance to be at Buckingham Palace for the event.

Miss Cole, aged 47, was among about 7,000 guests at the first of the year's three Royal Garden Parties last Wednesday. She said: "It was really

nice, and so posh and fancy. I loved the dressing up. I'll take any excuse to buy a new dress and shoes."

Miss Cole, who is chief financial accountant at the ambulance service, was accompanied by her eldest daughter Rachel.

The two queued with the thousands of others for about half an hour before the gates to the palace opened at 3pm. From there they spent the next couple of hours enjoying the fancy food and

drink, although Miss Cole joked that she had struggled with the absence of coffee. She said: "The food was lovely and so perfect. But I don't like tea and there was no coffee!"

Miss Cole, who also has another daughter Zoe, 19, and lives in Holly Road, Dudley, said she had been nominated by the ambulance service's chief executive. One of the most memorable parts of the event for Miss Cole was seeing the Duchess of Cambridge

Murder suspect Luke set for trial

MURDER suspect Luke Walker told of his fears as he flew back to Crete to face trial over the death of his girlfriend.

The 25-year-old, his parents and brother, all from Brierley Hill, flew back to the holiday isle last week aiming to prove he did not kill Chelsea Hyndman.

Seventeen witnesses are lined up – 11 of them friends of both Luke and Chelsea flown out from the UK – in an effort to prove his 20-year-old girlfriend died from the results of a fall.

If convicted, he could face a life sentence, which could be about 20 years. He said: "I know I'm innocent and feel confident. But there is always doubt about what will happen."

Luke's parents, Patrick and Lindy, have remortgaged the family home in Gayfield Avenue, Brierley Hill. But they reckon they are still £60,000 in debt as they fund the costs of his defence – £300,000 so far and mounting.

"If he gets a fair trial and there are no lies or deceit, he will be exonerated," said Patrick, aged 57, who runs Walker's Electrics in Brierley Hill.

Speakers at help seminar

BUSINESS owners from around the West Midlands attended a breakfast seminar aimed at offering advice and support organised by an MP.

Margot James, who is the member of parliament for Stourbridge, hosted the event to help businesses looking to either begin exporting or expand their overseas operations.

She opened the NatWest Route to Growth: Export Seminar at the Ruskin Glass Centre, in Amblecote, last week with a short speech about the challenges and opportunities for the UK.

Ex-champ talks

FORMER world champion flyweight boxer Charlie Magri will be the guest speaker at a sporting lunch. He will be speaking at the Gentlemen's Friday Club event at The Novotel in Broad Street, Birmingham, on July 5. Tickets are available from Grays on 01543 502049.

Vandals desecrate war memorial in rifle theft

VANDALS have desecrated a war memorial dedicated to soldiers who died in the Boer War by stealing an ornate bronze rifle.

Former soldiers condemned criminals who damaged the memorial at Dudley Cemetery which has stood since 1904. Leading MPs joined the calls to catch the culprits following

attacks reported on war memorials and cenotaphs around the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

They hope that new legislation introduced by government ministers to toughen laws on the sale of scrap metal will stem the tide.

Royal British Legion branch members in Dudley have surveyed the damage caused to the monument at the cemetery off Stourbridge Road and demanded it is protected.

Council officers have inspected the monument and are looking at ways that it could be restored.

The thieves caused potentially thousands of pounds of damage to the monument when they ripped the rifle away.

Damage

It is not known exactly when the rifle was stolen or the damage caused to the structure.

The memorial is dedicated to 56 soldiers who died during the Second Boer War between 1899 and 1902.

Former councillor Malcolm Davis, who is chairman of the Dudley branch of the Royal British Legion, said it was 'disrespectful' to the servicemen's families.

He was joined by brothers Horace and Alan Bissell, who both saw service in the Second World War, in calling for action to restore the memorial.

"Honestly, I don't know what is wrong with these people, that they would think it was fine to cause this kind of damage," said Mr Davis.

"It is an absolute disgrace and is disrespectful."



The rifle is missing after vandals attacked the memorial in Dudley Cemetery



How the war memorial looked complete with the rifle before the attack

Youth admits stealing jewels

A TEENAGER has admitted stealing £1,500 of irreplaceable jewellery from a Dudley pensioner. The jewellery had been given to the 77-year-old by her late husband.

Miss Lynda Gudgeon, prosecuting at Dudley Youth Court, said: "This was a nasty distraction burglary and the victim has had many sleepless nights following this."

The victim, a widow since 2009, had answered her door on February 4 and found two youths standing there, the court was

told. One of the boys asked to use the toilet and when the victim turned away, the two boys were suddenly inside her home.

Miss Gudgeon added: "They were there no longer than five minutes and she told them they would have to go as she was expecting her husband back for his tea."

While the youths disturbed her, the 17-year-old Walsall boy sneaked in the back door and stole the jewellery. The teenager will be sentenced on June 18.

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Order on wannabe fireman

A WANNABE fireman who started a blaze in the men's toilets at Dudley Library has been made subject of an interim hospital order.

Dean Challoner, aged 22, set fire to the toilet roll dispenser in the first-floor toilets, causing more than £6,000 of damage.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Challoner, of Vale Court in Cradley Heath, admitted a charge of arson and being reckless as to whether life was endangered. The court heard he had an obsession with fire and a history of learning difficulties.

Judge Robin Onions gave Challoner a 12-week interim hospital order for a psychiatric assessment before sentencing on August 9.

He will remain in the care of his father, before moving to a hospital on June 3.

Judge Onions said: "He set fire to a toilet roll, he has an absolute fascination in fires – he wants to be a fireman."

"There is also a history of fires at his home and here he is setting fire in a public library. It is a concern."

Judge Onions asked that police provide information about previous fires at Challoner's home before sentencing in two months.

Alcoholic is sent to jail

AN alcoholic who repeatedly beat his ex-girlfriend with a broken clothes rail during a row at her home has been jailed for 10 months.

Dean Hickinbottom launched the attack on his former partner after she tried to get her keys from his jeans to lock up as he lay asleep on the bed.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Hickinbottom, aged 40, of Wallace Road in Oldbury, admitted assault causing bodily harm at an earlier hearing. Mr Ekwall Tiwana, defending, said Hickinbottom had reduced his alcohol intake.

Woman rescued

AN elderly woman has been rescued from a chip pan fire in her flat in Halesowen. Firefighters were called to the ground floor flat in Belle Vale and forced their way into the home after seeing smoke coming out of the windows. The woman, believed to be in her 70s, was led to safety. She was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation.

Police are granted extra powers over yobs

POLICE have been granted extra powers to tackle troublemakers in Dudley Wood after complaints from residents about street drinking, fighting and vandalism.

A dispersal order has been made to combat anti-social behaviour and means officers can move on groups if they are suspected of causing a nuisance.

They can also take under-16s found hanging around back home to their families between 9pm and 6am. The order covers Dudley Wood Road, Saltwells Road, Halesowen Road, Molyneux Road, The Bowling Green Estate, The Beck

and The Race Meadows Estate. It runs for six months.

Police said those found to be consistently breaking the order, or any individual anti-social behaviour orders, face possible eviction from the area and further civil interventions.

Reg Steele, responsible for implementing the dispersal order, said: "We are pleased to have secured this dispersal order and hope to reduce issues of crime and anti-social behaviour across the locality. Sadly, the actions of a few individuals have a negative effect on the

whole community and we hope that this order will enable us to make a real difference to those who are suffering due to anti-social behaviour."

Councillor Steve Walther, said: "Dispersal Authorisation Notices are one of the tools that the partnership uses to tackle anti-social behaviour and we have supported the recent application from the police to use dispersal powers over the next six months in the Dudley Wood area."

Similar orders have been made in the Queens Way area of Wollescote and in

Pensnett. Earlier this year the council approved plans to close an footpath in nearby Quarry Bank because it had been plagued by anti-social behaviour.

Residents had long complained about the walkway between Robin Hood Road and Marion Close.

A petition signed by 35 people calling for action was handed in to council chiefs.

The path was often used by people as part of a route from the village to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

NEWS

in brief

Electronics and jewellery stolen

THOUSANDS of pounds of electronic items and jewellery were stolen in a burglary on a rural road in a village outside Stourbridge.

Police say the thieves got into the house in Vine Lane in Clent through a conservatory door.

The items taken included a Dell laptop worth £600, an Apple laptop worth £1,500, a Panasonic camcorder worth £300, a Sony camcorder worth £300 and costume jewellery. Call police on 0300 333 3000.

Plaque to honour ex-transport chief

A PLAQUE will be unveiled at Stourbridge bus station to Dudley's former transport chief Councillor Angus Adams.

A ceremony will be held in memory of the 67-year-old, who died last year.

Councillor Adams, who was chairman of Centro, was the driving force behind plans for the £7million bus station. But he died shortly before it was opened.

A granite plaque will be unveiled by Stourbridge MP Margot James at 11.45am on June 7.

Animal therapy for dementia victims

PEOPLE with dementia and their carers have been enjoying some animal therapy. Dudley Zoo's outreach team visited the Halesowen Dementia Gateway with creatures, including a bearded dragon, ferret, rats, and hissing cockroaches.

Councillor Dave Brannwood, said: "The animal therapy has been just one of the activities on offer."

Art project wins national award

A DUDLEY community project that offers arts workshops and exhibition space has won a national award.

Staff from Artspace occupies empty town centre properties to offer art workshops to adults and families. Artspace has won first place in the Learning Through Arts and Culture Award.

Group needs help

THE St John's Preservation Group in Dudley is looking for people to help with work at St John's Church, Kates Hill. Contact Deb Brownlee on s a v e s t j o h n s c h u r c h @ h o t m a i l . c o . u k .

Nurse is suspended after screaming at her mentor

A NURSE at Russells Hall Hospital who screamed 'I hate you' at her hospital mentor after making a series of blunders has been banned from work for four months.

Seema Faulkner's errors included switching off a patient's blood pressure monitor for nearly six hours. She also administered blood intravenously when untrained and failed to take a diabetic patient's blood sugar measurements. The allegations against her were found proved at a Nursing and Midwifery Council hearing in central London.

Issuing her with a four-month suspension, panel chairman Andy Thompson said: "There were clinical failings caused mostly when you began working in an acute situation with which you were unfamiliar."

In her last position you were clinically competent, an area of nursing you had previously worked in caring for elderly patients."

Faulkner had previously nursed at a care home before working at Russell Hall's Accident and Emergency department.

The hearing, which ran over two days in January and on Monday and Tuesday this week, heard Faulkner admit eight charges while a further 10 were proved against her.

One of these was that she had switched off a patient's blood pressure monitor at 10.30pm on October 11, 2009, and it was not switched on again until 4am.

Team aims for £10,000

A TEAM from a Halesowen accountancy and business advice firm aims to raise £10,000 for charity by taking part in a 27-mile cycling challenge.

ER Grove & Co partner Steve Lomas, director Jon Stafford and accountant Chris Townsend will set off on the London to Paris Cycle Challenge on July 17.

To sponsor the team, follow their fundraising activities and progress, go to www.ergrove.co.uk/bikeergrove

Teenager's makeover wish is granted



TEENAGER Paige Doherty's health has had a rough time lately but she has been given a glamorous gift to keep her spirits up.

The Kingswinford girl, aged 15, has had seven stays in hospital since she was first admitted for persistent vomiting in July 2011.

The latest of these visits saw her admitted to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital at the beginning of March,

where she remains on the children's ward. Thanks to the Wishing Well charity and its director Steve Ford, however, Paige was given a makeover to cheer her up. Paige's mother Joanne, aged 40 and of Bromley Lane, said: "She has loved every minute of it."

Mrs Doherty, who is a housewife, said her daughter had filled out the wish form a month ago after Mr Ford

made one of his regularly visits to the ward to deliver them.

Paige, who lives with her parents and sister Stacey, aged 21, Mitchell, aged 18, and Callum, aged 17, is home tutored but previously attended Summerville School in Kingswinford.

She wished for a makeover and mobile hair and make-up woman Stacey Dowler had stepped in to make her wish come true.

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NEWS

**THE BEST
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THERE may be no great global conspiracy behind the Woolwich murder. Knife-wielding maniacs who think they hear the voice of God were with us long before al Qaeda came along. Some psychopaths have a compulsion to kill. Religion gives them an excuse.

□ □ □

THIS week the FTSE index has been at a dizzying 6,700-plus. This is about the level at which we ordinary folk begin to shift our savings out of boring old building societies and into some exciting new Stock Market-linked scheme with a glossy brochure. However, this is the month when professional investors, who have been busy buying stock and pushing the FTSE up, are tempted by the old maxim: "Sell in May and go away." And if they decide to take their enormous profits and run, you could be left with your glossy brochure and not much else.

□ □ □

ANOTHER reader writes to tell me the finest oven-proof glassware comes from Jamaica and is known as the Pyrex of the Caribbean.

□ □ □

THIS week's sad report on the decline of British wildlife reminds me of one of the most memorable assignments I ever had, 10 years ago on the Scottish island of Benbecula. Hedgehogs, introduced in the 1970s, were eating the eggs of sea birds and a cull had been ordered to rid the island of this "alien" species. Before the cull began, conservationists were busy trapping the creatures and shipping them to the British mainland where they would be released into safe areas. Sadly, those hedgehogs and their descendants, assuming they bred, may well be dead. The report, by 25 wildlife organisations, shows the UK hedgehog population has dropped by one-third in the past decade. Historians may well wonder why the experts, blessed with a thriving colony of these endearing little mammals on Benbecula, decided that birds were more important and eradicated it.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes
every Monday to Friday in
your Express & Star**

Horses bring rush-hour in road to a standstill

STRAY horses brought rush-hour chaos to a major Dudley road and surrounding streets – as cars slowed to a crawl to avoid frightening the wandering animals.

Residents in Sandford Road, Dudley, said their "hearts were in their mouths" as they woke to see two horses, one white and the other brown, trotting along the nearby Himley Road.

by Lee Watton

The animals walked slowly along the junction of Sandford Road and Himley Road, forcing drivers to stop until the horses had passed at around 8am on May 23.

They eventually trotted into Merryfield Road before stopping to graze on a large patch of grassland, allowing traffic to move freely once again.

But the horses were soon on the move again, ambling along Sandford Road stopping only to chew on plants and bushes in residents' gardens.

Frighten

They walked to nearby Langstone Road, where drivers again had to stop so as not to frighten the animals.

The horses then walked back to the patch of grassland in Merryfield Road where they continued to graze. Residents said it was not the first time stray horses had been left to roam along streets in the area – with similar problems last year. Merryfield Road resident Lisa Buxton said: "I

was so scared for the safety of both the horses and motorists that when I saw the animals walking along the Himley Road," she said.

"My heart was in my mouth. There was a real danger of an accident."

People have had to take extra care when leaving their drives in our street so as not to frighten the horses.

"It is such a shame. They are lovely animals and I think everyone is really worried about something happening to them."

She said one of the animals had wandered on to her garden.

Fellow resident Lynne Ward added: "It is hard to understand why the owners would let them roam free like this."

Councillor Tracy Wood said: "We received a report of the two stray horses. They were on the highway and the report was passed on to the police."

Horses on the highway should be reported directly to the police on 0345 113 5000.

New centre creates 15 jobs

A BUSINESS set up to help residents make their homes more energy efficient has opened its new headquarters in the Black Country, creating 15 jobs.

Green Deal staff cut the ribbon at the site, on Enterprise Trading Estate, Pedmore Road, Dudley, at a ceremony attended by Mayor of Dudley Alan Finch.

Part of the centre will be used to train people on how to assess homes to be more energy efficient.

Training on fitting exterior and interior wall insulation will also take place in another part of the site. Clients including councils, housing associations and installation firms will be able to visit the centre to request assessments or properties.

Assessors will then be allocated from the site to carry out each job.

The 15 new positions have been created in administration and management positions – and bosses said more would be taken on as the business expanded.

The site is Green Deal's first main base. Project manager Karla Wynter said



Front from left Dudley Mayor Alan Finch, managing director Andy Wynter, Mayoress Heather Finch, strategic leader Phil Wynter, and, back, managing director Ross Williams, project manager Karla Wynter, office manager Jodie Hale and director Wayne Greet

is the perfect base for what we want to do in the future.

"My father is from the area and wanted to bring new jobs and opportunities to the region. We will be looking to expand."

She said: "The location on the trading estate was absolutely perfect for us and we hope to take on more people."

Work on offer as archives near end

DOZENS of work placements are being offered at the new £6 million archives centre in Dudley.

Council bosses have made the positions available to unemployed people who are looking to get back into work.

Construction of the centre, in Tipton Road, near the Black Country Living Museum is nearing completion and is due to open this year.

Job placements being offered include opportunities for carpenters, painters and decorators and administrators.

Dudley Council's deputy head of service for adult and community learning Viv Webb said: "We recognise the importance of employability and of supporting local unemployed people who often through lack of work experience have failed to land work."

Graham Cresswell, commercial director of builder G F Tomlinson, said: "GF Tomlinson is delighted to assist Dudley Council."

Pub plan pulled

A PROPOSAL to turn a former pub in Dudley into a pub has been dropped.

The conversion plan for the Hearty Goodfellow, in Maughan Street, has been withdrawn. Dudley Council officers said the plan did not fit in with the council's vision for the area.

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Marston's is boosting its bottling

MARSTON'S brewery aims to build up sales of its bottled beers after investing £7 million in a new production line.

The Wolverhampton group is installing the new bottling line at the Marston's Brewery site in Burton upon Trent.

When it comes on line in September it will be used for bottling beers from across the group's breweries.

Marston's took the decision to invest to exploit the growing bottled premium ale market. It currently tops the UK market with 17.5 per cent ahead of Green King with 14.6 per cent and Shepherd Neame with 9.3 per cent.

As well as increasing production of its own bottled beers, the line will also be used to expand Marston's contract bottling business for other brewers.

The group, which includes Banks's in Wolverhampton, Jennings, Wychwood, Ringwood and Brakspear hopes to increase sales through both supermarkets and off licences.

Film on sketches

A DOCUMENTARY is to be shown about mystery drawings of late singer Mario Lanza on beer mats left in pubs all over the Black Country since the 1970s.

The artist signs every one AJW. Documentary maker Barney Snow has made a film called Some Day I'll Find You which will show on June 21 at 7pm at the UCL Cinema, Torrington Square.

Rare treat as 'mechanical horses' turn up at station



Organiser John Giles, of Bewdley, with his 1936 Scammell in Great Western Railway livery



Club member Neville Dyson, of Sheffield, next to his 1966 Scammell Townsman



Volunteer porter Paul Barnfield, of Birmingham, next to a Scammell vehicle

THOUSANDS of visitors to the Severn Valley Railway enjoyed a rare treat as staff took a trip down memory lane using unusual transport.

They were able to get a glimpse of some of the few remaining 'mechanical horses' – small articulated lorries once used by the railways for parcel deliveries.

For three days, staff and volunteers on the railway used the unusual form of road transport that disappeared during the 1960s.

The three-wheeled tractors and their two-wheeled trailer units, built by Scammell,

were once a common sight at railway stations around the country and were used to deliver parcels and goods locally.

They were literally the motorised successor to the horse-drawn carts of the old railway companies but were phased out almost 50 years ago, along with the age of steam. John Giles, aged 64, from Bewdley, the event organiser and volunteer driver on the Severn Valley Railway, took three of the rare vehicles he has restored to the event in Kidderminster.

He said: "It was a great success. We have 12 vehicles from across the country on display and this enhanced the experience of visitors on the railway.

"The event was based at various points around Kidderminster Station and we had one of the earliest, a 1936 Great Western Railway mechanical horse, and one of the latest, a Townsman from 1966, on show."

"All of them came off the road in 1970 and most people less than 50 years old might never have seen one."

Restoring

"They certainly cause interest whenever I take them out to shows."

John is currently working on restoring more of the vehicles which he has rescued from scrapyards around the country.

Scammell built more than 30,000 of the

versatile, 'turn-on-a-sixpence' lorries in three versions between 1934 and 1968, but only 120 or so survive, and few of them are in working order. A dozen working examples were on show for the Mechanical Horse event.

John added: "It's rare to see even one of these wonderful old vehicles, so to see about a dozen of them buzzing around Kidderminster's cobbled station forecourt in the course of a day was amazing for visitors."

The three-day event also marked the 30th anniversary of the Mechanical Horse Club and the 80th anniversary of the construction of the first Mechanical Horse at Scammell's factory in Watford.

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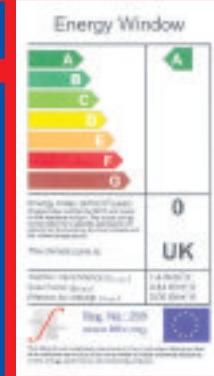
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NEWS

in brief

MP in push for pensions boost

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has pressed the government to do more for pensioners.

He raised the matter during a Commons debate over issues relating to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

Mr Williamson asked work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith what was being done. But Minister of State for Pensions Steve Webb replied: "Even where we have had to take difficult decisions on welfare spending, we have systematically protected pensioners from the impacts of changes."

Chief's campaign on force funding

THE West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a campaign calling on the Government to increase funding for the force.

Bob Jones says £126 million of cuts have already been made and he fears more could be on the way. He also claims the force doesn't get what it is supposed to in funding.

To find out more visit www.westmidlands.pcc.gov.uk/your-commissioner-fair-deal-for-policing.

Wine's a winner

A VINEYARD in Staffordshire has won an award for its red wine. Clive and Martin Vickers, of Halfpenny Green Vineyards, won silver in this year's Decanter World Wine Awards for their 2011 Rondo wine.

NEWS FEATURE**IN MY VIEW**WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

ARE you prepared for the collapse of civilisation this Friday? If not, be afraid, very afraid.

May 31 is the date that has been chosen by the civil servants in the departments of Education and Business to down their ballpoints and go on strike.

Those of a less benevolent disposition than myself might think this is a nice bit of timing, coming at the end of half-term and just days after the bank holiday. Better still, all Whitehall civil servants also enjoyed a special 'privilege' day off on Tuesday this week, although they still had to show up for work on Wednesday and Thursday. Pain or what?

Apparently the strike is over pay and pensions. Come on, brothers, you can do better than that. What about the excessive working hours? ☐☐☐☐☐

MIND you, maybe there is something to be said for giving some of our hardworking public servants a few extra days off.

Personally, I think traffic wardens are one of the most overworked sectors of our community, and they of all people, surely deserve a few extra 'privilege' days for their contribution. I dunno, say something in the region of 365 days a year, with a bonus day on a leap year.

They've earned it.

☐☐☐☐☐

IN a similar vein, UK Independence Party founder Professor Alan Sked was right to ridicule MEP Godfrey Bloom for suggesting UKIP could address its lack of policies by buying some 'off the shelf' from think tanks.

Surely that would deprive UKIP of its unique selling point? In an age when politicians never tire of telling us what we should eat, when we can drink, how we should empty our bins, the idea of a political party with no policies sounds tantalisingly attractive.

Vote for us, and we won't mess anything up because we won't do anything. I'd vote for it.

☐☐☐☐☐

ACCORDING to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Better Life Index, Australians are the happiest people in the world.

Of course they are. Let's face it, their ancestors were the ones who were sent to the land of endless sunshine and Foster's, while their mates were left behind sewing mailbags and breaking rocks.

Still, I do think the result might have been skewed by the timing of the survey, and it would have been much better had the OECD hung fire until the end of August.

Let's wait until we've thrashed them in the Ashes. Then we'll see who's laughing...



Suzanne Flynn, Peter Burden, vice-chancellor Prof Geoff Layer, Rod Seivewright and Prof Derek Sheldon



Former and current students with the University of Wolverhampton's vice chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer, and the dean of technology, Professor Nduka Ekere during their visit to the museum at Bletchley Park



Suzanne Flynn, Prof Derek Sheldon, Eli Barnett and Alison Cheshire study a programming tape

Witch way to look at an old computer

Former Wolverhampton students tell **TOM MASON** of the fun and faults when using the Electronic Brain

SILICON Valley and Bletchley Park may have been the pioneers in computing – but the former Wolverhampton and Staffordshire Technical College also had an impact on early technology.

The world's oldest working digital computer, The Harwell Dekatron, had a home in Wolverhampton for more than 16 years.

Dubbed the 'Electronic Brain', the computer began its working life in 1951 at the former Harwell R&D base, near Oxford, where it was used to help in atomic technology research.

But just five years later the machine was outdated. However, instead of being dismantled, it was saved and became a competition prize for colleges across the country.

Teaching

More than 30 entered the prestigious contest – including the technical College, which is now the University of Wolverhampton.

It was Wolverhampton which won the bid and the computer moved to its new home in 1956.

By June 1957 it was operational and students had their first chance to use the machine, which remained one of only 17 computers in the UK.

During its time in the Black Country the Wolverhampton Instrument for Teaching Computation from Harwell became known as WITCH.

Fast forward more than five decades as the very students who were some of the first to work on the computer in Wolverhampton were invited to see the machine at its home at The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. Professor



Delwyn Holroyd, restoration team leader, makes a few final tweaks before showing what the two-and-a-half ton machine can do

Derek Sheldon, aged 74, was one of the earliest users of the machine in 1959 when he was college student.

He had mixed experiences of its abilities during his time studying for a Diploma in Technical and Mechanical Engineering.

"It was amazing getting our first results but at times the machine didn't always work and would just freeze, often at a crucial moment," Professor Sheldon, who lives in Solihull, says.

"Having said that, we weren't really told how to use it and there was no manual. We were just shown it and told

to give it ago." Professor Sheldon would go on to get a PhD from Bristol University thanks to the machine and worked for some of the UK's biggest companies before setting up his own firm.

He adds: "It's amazing to see it working again. What the people have done here is amazing."

Peter Burden was still a schoolboy at Wolverhampton Municipal Grammar School in 1961 when he first laid eyes on the WITCH.

"I didn't really realise the significance of it when I first saw it, it was just a machine for computing complex

sums," says the 70-year-old from Penn. "It was a marvellous machine to play with, especially with all those lights and switches, it was all rather fun."

He used the machine to work out thousands of combinations for locks and keys for the Wolverhampton lockmakers, Chubb, and would later have a key role to play when the machine was finally restored.

As Kevin Murrell, trustee of the TNMOC says: "The machine had lived a very charmed life."

After finishing it's time at the university it was sent to Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry.

Kevin, a typical geeky teen from Birmingham, fell in love with the machine during the 1970s and would make regular trips to sketch the machine, which would remain on display until the museum's closure in 1997.

However he would be reunited with the machine many years later.

Cleared

He says: "I was at one of the museum storage in Birmingham looking for another computer in a pile of things that included a stuffed owl and an Art Deco chip fryer from Stourbridge.

"We cleared a few things and I happened to look down on the floor and see a control panel that I recognised, I knew instantly I had found the WITCH."

He adds: "The machine is not as fast as others but it is more reliable than any other computer of its time."

"It's brilliant to see the machine teaching people about computing again as it had done all those years ago in Wolverhampton."

The University of Wolverhampton's vice chancellor, Professor Geoff Layer, was also at Bletchley to meet some of the former students and see the machine in operation.

He says: "People have a weird perception of Wolverhampton and the Black Country as a place of older industries, but the city has always been and continues to be a leading light in all areas of teaching including computing."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

MARRIED couples in Walsall were invited to a special church service to repeat their wedding vows. The Rev Joe Edwards, of All Saints Church, invited all people married at the church in the previous five years to attend the service, which included a piece of wedding cake.

MORE than 400 youngsters applied for just 50 vacancies for trainees in Sandwell's public works division. The applications flooded in before council officials had chance to advertise the posts.

AN over-amorous drake was making feathers fly in Wolverhampton's West Park – by fighting off all the competition. Marvin the Muscovy had all the ducks to himself during the mating season after sending the other drakes quacking.

1993...

A WILLENHALL pensioner toasted the 40th anniversary of the Queen's coronation with a very special brew. Bill Hawley from New Invention kept two bottles of Mitchells and Butler's coronation ale in his fridge for 40 years without touching a drop.

A REPTILE house keeper at the West Midlands Safari Park was recovering in hospital after being bitten by a rattlesnake. Mark O'Shea from Wolverhampton was attempting to feed the venomous snake when it struck in front of a crowd of shocked onlookers.

2003...

SEVERN Valley Railway celebrated its 125th anniversary in a subdued style like the original opening of the line in 1878. As no trains ran on the line until 17 years after it was first proposed, there was no fanfare when it initially opened.

DIEHARD Harry Potter fans in Wolverhampton were preparing to queue to midnight in the rush to read about the boy wizard's latest adventures. Store bosses at Asda in Molineux Way announced they would be selling Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix at the unusual time of one minute past midnight.

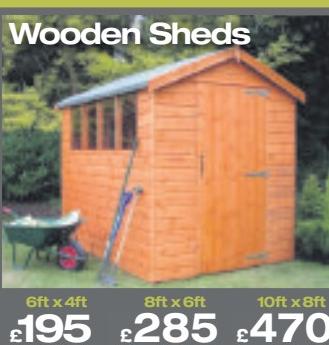
WORLD champion athlete Colin Jackson put Wolverhampton schoolchildren through their paces after being quizzed by them about his glittering career. The Welsh sprinter visited St Edmund's Catholic School in Compton Park to encourage children to participate in sport.

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LETTERS

Council demolishing our assets

DUDLEY council have done it yet again. They are trying to demolish another of the assets the town has to offer, along with the leisure centres, libraries and toilets the Hippodrome has been marked for destruction, against the wishes of the public for whom the council are supposed to work.

The previous councillors who had worked so hard to improve our borough facilities must be turning in their graves at the desecration going on above us.

The Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Museum are a disappointment. The heads of these attractions

who recommend the destruction, are so short-sighted they do not realise we only visit their attractions once in a blue moon, but the Hippodrome could bring up to 1,700 visitors a day into the town, plus any daytime activities that would be arranged.

We would therefore make extra visits to the Zoo and BCLM while in Dudley.

Perhaps we would have visitors from Birmingham and London instead of the other way round. There are a lot of us unable to make extended visits to the above, but would be able to use a local facility like the Hippodrome. I cannot express my disappointment enough

with the council's treatment of the voting public, at the use of the ground for a very expensive car park or another steel framed shed, when we have a magnificent theatre that would draw the crowds for a lot less money, and would be self sufficient after a very short time. Whoever the consultants are they must be very blinkered view of the assets that are available - or is it again run by accountants who cannot appreciate what a benefit the reopening of the Hippodrome would be.

C J PAYNE
Kingswinford

Memories evoked by old picture of my friend

I WAS very interested to see the Picture from the past on May 14.

The person in the picture was an old friend of mine who died many years ago. He was a professional entertainer and compere at both the Dudley Hippodrome and the Langley Regent Theatre, Oldbury.

Also the La Reserve, Sutton Coldfield. He was a member of the famous Water Rats in London who used to meet at the Odd Fellows Club and held the position of Scribe Rat responsible for all the advertising and publicity.

He was also a managing director of an engineering company in Halesowen, which has now gone. He lived off the Broadway in Dudley and had two sons. The picture brought back a lot of very happy memories of him and the times we had together.

WE WINCOTT
Worcs

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
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E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Ridiculous notion of Sir David Beckham

AFTER however many years it is (and who cares anyway?) of kicking a bag of wind about and being paid obscene amounts of money for doing so, David Beckham is retiring and the daunting prospect of him being given a knighthood is being mooted.

To me, and I'm sure to many other people, the idea that an overrated and grossly overpaid sportsman should be given a knighthood is deeply offensive, especially when the idea was being mooted in the same newspapers which, on other pages were paying deserved tribute to real heroes, the men of RAF617 Dambusters Squadron, three of whom are still alive and none of who is likely to be knighted.

The awarding of knighthoods and other honours to sports people and other so-called celebrities has been happening for decades under all governments and Prime Ministers.

The thought of David Beckham receiving a knighthood is bad enough, but let's also think of what else will go with it. If and when he becomes Sir David, his stick insect wife will become Lady Beckham. The mind, as they say, boggles,

R A SARGEANT
Dudley

Council is wasting cash from taxpayers

DUDLEY Council is once again planning to do what it does best, waste and squander taxpayers money.

The new market they propose will be out of character and the demolition of the only public toilets in town.

They have no forethought or vision for the Hippodrome, I doubt if those who are ready to destroy this great theatre have ever been through the doors to witness the great stars and wonderful entertainment.

They seem to be ready to sacrifice another piece of Dudley for a temporary car park, once these buildings have gone they are gone forever.

The car park in Stone Street was replaced with a useless square, another fiasco, costing the people of Dudley an obscene amount of money.

It is so easy to spend other people's money.

J FOWNES
Dudley

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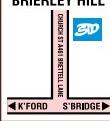
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NEWS

N-ice to see you again as family treated by city



From left, Wendy, Joyce, Stephen and Roger Bannister with ice creams by the Trevi Fountain at a fraction of the cost of the £54 they paid for four cones a couple of weeks ago

IT WAS a case of ice to see you again as Roger, Wendy, Stephen and Joyce Bannister are back in Rome courtesy of the mayor.

They were given the free return trip after they were ripped off by paying 64 euros (£54) for four ice cream cones two weeks ago.

Mayor Gianna Alemano, who is treating Roger, his brother Stephen and their wives to an all-expenses paid trip, wanted to apologise to them for the extortionate price they were charged by a vendor close to the Spanish Steps.

The two couples, from Wordsley, arrived in Rome last week to be met by police and the city council's special delegate for tourism, Antonio Gazzalione, who escorted them through customs controls to begin their four-day stay at the swish Jumeirah Hotel. "We had a brilliant day, with lunch and a tour guide all afternoon

showing us the secrets of Rome," said 58-year-old Roger, of Cot Lane, Wordsley, who is chief executive officer of Pressvess Ltd in Kingswinford. "We had a brilliant day, with lunch and a tour guide all afternoon showing us the secrets of Rome." Roger and Wendy, and Stephen and Joyce, who live in Sandringham Road, Kingswinford. "We had a brilliant day, with lunch and a tour guide all afternoon showing us the secrets of Rome." Roger and Wendy, and Stephen and Joyce, who live in Sandringham Road, Kingswinford. "We had a brilliant day, with lunch and a tour guide all afternoon

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CHAMPAGNE flutes made in Dudley are being flown out as a gift for the Mayor of Rome.

The Bannister family, from Wordsley, commissioned the cut-glass as a 'thank you' to the Italian dignitary for inviting them back to the city as his guest.

Mayor, Gianni Aleman-

nois is treating Roger and Wendy, his brother Stephen and sister-in-law Joyce, to an all-expenses-paid trip. And, as a 'thank you' to the Italian dignitary for inviting them back to the city as his guest. Mayor, Gianni Aleman-

collected two sets each of six champagne glasses and six 'Pressvess' coasters, cut by artist Kevin Barry-Adams, who runs Kevin Barry Crystal at Stourbridge's Ruskin Centre. One set is for the Mayor and the other for Antonio Gazzalione, Rome Town Council's special delegate for tourism.

Cut glass thank you to the mayor



Roger Bannister, right, and glass artist Kevin Barry

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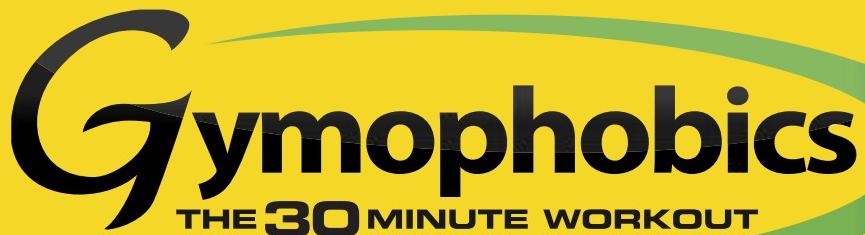
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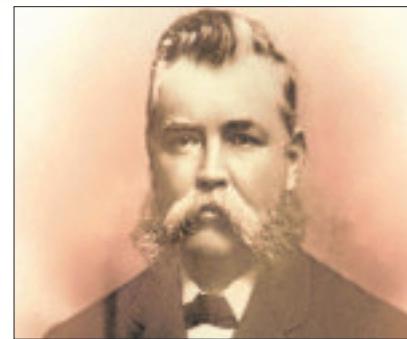
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MEMORY LANE

James Baker & Sons Boot Manufacturers in Cleveland Road, Wolverhampton



The founder of the boot factory, James Baker, in 1850



Women at work producing boots and shoes at Baker's Boot factory during its heyday

Booted and suited trainers help to put the soul back into old factory



The former Baker's Boot factory in Wolverhampton

A DESCENDANT of a Wolverhampton boot and shoe-making dynasty has been reunited with pictures of his family after they were discovered during the renovation of a former factory.

John Baker, whose great-great grandfather James founded Baker's Boots in 1850, was the guest of honour at a launch event that has seen the former factory in All Saints, turned into an engineering training centre.

Mr Baker, aged 86, who lives near Cleverley, was returning to the factory in Cleveland Road for the first time in more than 40 years.

The former shoe boss was there for the opening of Engineering Real Results (ERR), which trains and educates students in construction in the heart of the Grade II listed building.

The pictures of the Baker family are now being hung in the boardroom of the ERR centre and will eventually

by Adam Thompson

include a portrait of John Baker. He said: "I haven't been to this factory for such a long time but there are features that are the same."

"The factory floor is a lot more open now but the sky lights and the brick and iron rafters haven't changed."

"It's good to see the factory being used for modern engineering purposes but at the same time not losing sight of its past."

History

"It lay derelict for some time, which was always sad, but I'm delighted to see it up and running like today. It's important its history isn't forgotten."

The ceremony was attended by Mayor of Wolverhampton Christine Mills who spoke of the history of the factory, which used to provide boots for soldiers during the Second World War.

ERR managing director Phil Prosser, of Oldbury, unearthed the pic-

tures. "When I moved to the boot factory it was a shell and while sorting through its abandoned rooms, inside a dusty old cupboard I found a series of black and white framed Victorian photographs," he said.

"It turned out they used to hang in the boardroom, which I was in the process of renovating."

"I have a lot of good memories of the boot factory from my childhood because every year me and my family would go to Cleveland Road to buy my dad new work boots and pair of best shoes."

"I remember it with great fondness. When I found the photographs I thought it was only right to restore them to their rightful place on the walls - then we realised there was one owner missing."

"Somebody mentioned John Baker was still living in the Midlands, so I began a search to find him and reunite him with his family."

"I'm glad it was successful."



John Baker admires a restored stained glass window

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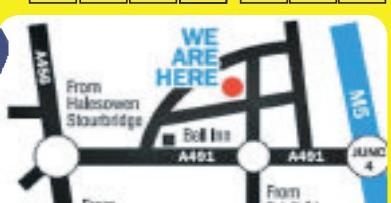
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Aim to reopen line



Keith Flinders, researcher for the Stourbridge rail group
RAIL campaigners say they are confident a project to reopen a railway line through Dudley can be kick-started by the end of this decade – more than 50 years after the route was closed.

Members of Stourbridge Line User Group have long campaigned for the opening of the Stourbridge to Walsall line.

They claim the region's road network is no longer adequate and a railway line linking the two towns, along with Dudley and Brierley Hill, would solve traffic congestion and benefit business.

This week, the group said it believed part of the line, from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, could be used again for commuters by 2020 as part of Centro's planned extension of the Metro network.

The transport firm has recently reaffirmed its intention to expand the line and said it was actively exploring options to fund the project. Three years ago, a 62-space car park was built for a Metro stop at Dudley Port station alongside the rusting track, which was closed in 1962.

Keith Flinders, researcher for Stourbridge Line User Group, said: "I believe the expansion of the Metro will be the first staged reopening of the Stourbridge to Walsall line."

"To open this part of the track will kick-start the whole project, eventually seeing it opened from Stourbridge to Walsall and used by both freight and passenger trains."

Fire service will recruit another 50 firefighters

FIFTY new firefighters will be taken on by West Midlands Fire Service, say bosses.

The online recruitment process is starting next month, and the service is gearing up to receive thousands of applications for the posts. The fire service has faced government funding cuts of £21 million, and the number of front line firefighters has fallen dramatically as a result.

It will have reduced from 1,600 in 2011 to 1,236 by the end of 2015, and the new recruits are needed to make sure the service is run effectively, bosses say. The successful applicants will undertake a two-month training course and will start in their posts this year.

They will have a joining salary of £21,369 rising to £22,258 during development and rising to £28,481 when competent.

Sandwell councillor John Edwards, who is chairman of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "We need to recruit in order to keep fire engines on the run and fire stations open.

"Earlier this year we asked council tax payers in the West Midlands for an extra £5 a year for their fire and rescue service, and promised it would be spent on our front line. This is exactly what we are doing."

by Victoria Nash

David Johnson, director of human resources for West Midlands Fire Service, said: "We get inquiries every day from people who want to join the brigade, and we're expecting large numbers of applicants for these highly skilled, professional roles."

Applicants need to be at least 17 and a half years old at the time of their application, with a GCSE Grade C or equivalent in English and maths.

The online application process will start next month and be available for at least two weeks.

As well as registering their personal details and qualifications, applicants will be asked to answer a series of questions to assess their eligibility and suitability, and their ability to understand information, work with numbers and solve problems.

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NEWS

Emergency patient care 'under serious pressure'

DOCTORS across the West Midlands have written to Whitehall health officials warning that they can no longer guarantee the safe care of patients in A&E due to the pressures on their departments.

In a leaked letter, 20 leaders of emergency departments in the region have written to senior NHS managers and highlighted a combination of 'toxic overcrowding' and 'institutional exhaustion' is putting lives at risk.

The document reveals the number of patients arriving at A&E for treatment has created a 'state of crisis' in casualty departments in the West Midlands, which has a population of 5.3 million.

The letter obtained by The Independent newspaper, was sent to NHS trust chief executives and clinical commissioning managers, with medical chiefs calling upon the Government to take immediate action to fix an 'emergency system failing to cope'.

It warns: 'What is entirely unacceptable is the delivery of unsafe care, but that is now the prospect we find ourselves facing on too frequent a basis'.

The medics highlighted growing concerns that the West Midlands, which deals with more than 1.5m patient attendances a year, is being overwhelmed by 'unprecedented and relentless pressures'.

New Cross Hospital is handling 40,000 more patients than it was designed to cope with.

Student bands in show

A HOST of local bands will perform at a concert organised by music technology students from City of Wolverhampton College students next month. The 'Live, Loud and Local' event on June 6 will be held at the Slade Rooms in Broad Street. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £4, or £3, and are available from Midland Box Office, the college's music technology department on the Paget Road campus, or on 01902 317736.

Snapping up local tales



Senior keeper Laura Robbins with Magnum photographer Martin Parr

A PHOTOGRAPHER has been getting to know the animals of Dudley Zoo for an arts project.

Martin Parr, aged 60, is working on a community project celebrating the spirit of the Black Country.

Black Country Stories is a programme using photographers, filmmakers and authors to work with local people and tell their stories of everyday life in the region.

Mr Parr was commissioned by arts company Multistory in West Bromwich to work on the project in 2010.

Mr Parr said: "When Multistory contacted me to ask if I might be interested in doing this photographic commission I couldn't say 'yes' fast enough."

Between then and now, he has

captured life in Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton but has now moved on to Dudley.

Mr Parr said: "I liked the zoo, with the team of very enthusiastic and dedicated keepers, their affection is very clear and makes a good contribution to our Black Country stories project."

Mr Parr, a member of the prestigious Magnum Photos group, spent time on site this week shadowing senior keeper Laura Robbins.

She and the zoo's head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, and chief executive Peter Suddock, are contributing to Black Country Stories' oral history.

Together they are recording stories and zoo-related tales for the project.

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NEWS

Plan to turn town's old bank into a restaurant

PIZZA and pasta could soon be served out of an historic bank in Stourbridge under plans to open an upmarket Mediterranean-style restaurant.

The Old Bank, High Street, has been put on the market by owner Adam Meyers in a bid to attract a new restauranteur to the town. He is also in talks with Dudley Council to amend an approved planning application for the eatery to increase the number of potential diners up to 150.

The Old Bank has been empty for six years following the departure of Yorkshire Bank. It dates back to 1834 and was formerly known as the Stourbridge and Kidderminster Bank, before becoming the Midland Bank in 1914.

The building is up for rent from property agent Lex Allan Commercial at £42,500 a year.

A spokesman for Mr Meyers said: "The building has always been referred to as one of the jewels of the town and Mr Meyers is keen to do it justice by bringing in a quality restaurant which will fit the bill."

"He has had the building for a while, but because of the credit crunch, it has proved difficult to attract a restaurant in. Now, with hopefully the increase in capacity, he hopes to finally get a restaurant open in there."

The building overlooks the town's square. It has carved stone facades and distinctive dormer windows. The building also sits opposite the new Tesco development, which is due to open in time for Christmas this year. Plans were submitted in 2007 to convert the old Yorkshire Bank into a trendy eatery, lounge bar and offices.

Choir concert at church

THE Lauda Chamber Choir will perform at St James's Church, Wollaston, Stourbridge, on June 8. The event has been organised by Local & Live, a group of local music enthusiasts, and will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 on the door, and under-18s can attend free.

New talon-t for centre



Volunteers Jenni Knott and Frankie Whitehouse with Skip the donkey and Tawny Eagle Didi

A DONKEY and an eagle are the latest additions at an animal centre in South Staffordshire.

The animals were introduced at the Owl and Falconry Centre in time for the school half-term holidays.

Skip, a 14-year-old rescue donkey, will be providing rides over the

holiday. Didi, a six-year-old African Tawny Eagle, was purchased by the centre, at Halfpenny Green Vineyards, recently.

The centre is open every day from 11am to 4pm.

It holds displays of its birds of prey at noon and 3pm.

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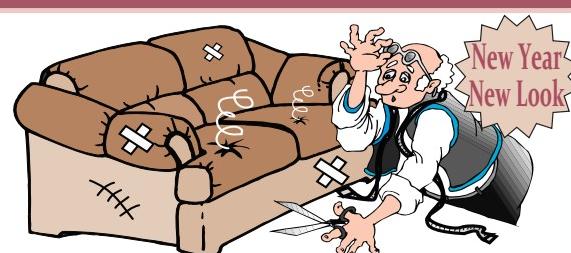
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Trip back in time to the 1940s

K'FORD TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell was able to welcome several members who had missed meetings due to illness. She also reported that Margaret Farmer had had her operation and was out of hospital.

Speaker for the evening was John Mobberly, who invited the group to 'Remember the 1940s.' For some, this was not possible as they were not born or very young. For these people it proved to be quite an unusual history lesson.

Gardening, for example

was a vital necessity to help the war effort by producing food, as was animal husbandry.

One member had hand-reared a piglet and delivered pork chops to the local butcher in exchange for packets of tea. Extra clothing coupons were acquired in a similar manner. There was so much lively participation that time ran out on 1946. Chris Groves thanked Mr Mobberly on the group's behalf.

Members were invited to sign the lists for the Federation Harvest Supper, the annual luncheon, a card-making session, the national carol service in Coventry and a musical moments event in October. Details were also given of the Christmas meal at The Old Courthouse.

Sue Cottrell and Alva Stavens won the raffle. At the next meeting on June 10 ladies will hear Trevor Johnson's Black Country poems.

It's a piece of cake as guild reaches 50



Pelsall TG committee members admire the guild's 50th birthday cake

PELSALL 'E TG

THE guild's 50th Birthday celebrations were a great success. The group was made welcome at the Beverley Hotel with a Bucks Fizz drink on arrival, followed by a very enjoyable three course meal and tea/coffee.

Anne Blount was presented with a certificate and badge in recognition of 40 years' service. The chairman and committee members had the pleasure of cutting a beautiful cake baked and decorated by Pat Heeley.

Members were each given a slice of cake and an engraved flute glass to commemorate the occasion, on departing. Entertainers Kate's Party were excellent, with Kate

amusing the group with anecdotes and jokes and inviting them to sing along. She organised a 'Name that Tune' contest of familiar TV signature tunes.

After Kate's husband Larry had given a wonderful tribute to the Shadows on his electric guitar, Kate rounded off the evening with more songs and banter.

On June 20 Michael Taylor will give a talk on 'A Slip of the Pen'. The competition set is for 'Your Favourite Pen'.

Illustrated talk on castle

WORDSLY HISTORY SOCIETY

WORDSLY History Society hosts an illustrated talk by Max Keen entitled 'History of Dudley Castle', on Thursday, June 13.

He will talk about the families and the life and demise of this local historic gem. He

will bring our heritage to life with slides, memorabilia and costume of the age. The talk will take place in the community centre, Words-



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NEWS**NEWS**
in brief

Helpers wanted for big clean-up

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help tidy an area of Dudley this weekend.

The Saltwells Tenants and Residents Association has organised for a two-hour litter pick to take place at the corner of Leabank Road and Health Road on Sunday from 10am. Bags, high visibility jackets, litter-pickers and gloves will be provided. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied.

Councillor Steve Walther, from Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, said: "It is great to see local communities coming together to help clean up their surroundings, fostering pride in the area. Let's hope the sun shines."

Brass band is to play for the mayor

A BRASS band and primary school choir will entertain the new mayor and mayoress of Dudley at a concert next week.

The Phoenix West Midlands Brass Band will lead the concert at Netherton Art Centre on June 1. The show will start at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5. To book, call 01384 350415.

Cash is Nisa-one

A FAMILY-run convenience store has donated £1,000 to help stage activities at a youth club in Quarry Bank. The Nisa store, in Quarry Bank High Street, has helped raise the money for Quarry Bank Youth Club.

Dealing with all human life is routine at 999 call centre

DEALING with emergencies is all in a day's work for Marie Malone from Dudley. She is the first port of call for those seeking help from police.

Whether it's dealing with tragedy or boy racers and drunks, the 49-year-old is the reassuring voice on the other end of the phone for those dialling 999. She is one of a team of operators who monitor the telephones at West Midlands Police Contact Centre in Bournville, Birmingham. Mrs Malone, of Wall Heath, began manning the phone lines 13 years ago after being made redundant from her bank job. "I thought it would be nice to help people in my own small way," she said.

During one particular night shift, Mrs Malone was one of 12 answering the phones. At busy times this can double to cope. On her shift there are four calls where the person on the other end of the phone has hung up before saying which service they want. These are forwarded by BT operators in case there is someone to speak to. If not, a message is left or checks made to see if the number is familiar, such as belonging to a regular victim of domestic violence.

Drunken

One of the more serious calls was from a female employee at Dudley's Aldi store, in Peartree Lane. A drunken man has been asked to leave the store after trying to buy alcohol and became enraged when he was refused. He has left the store but is hanging around outside disturbing customers. Mrs Malone takes the details which are sent to officers.

About 7.45pm, an 80-year-old man in Tipton called to report youths kicking balls over his garden wall and knocking on the door. She notes his age, that this has happened before and dispatches a police team.

The most pressing calls receive an 'immediate' response grading, while an 'early' response means officers aim to respond within an hour, the category the elderly man fits into. A 'routine' response means a visit later that day.

"Some people speak really fast and if you ask them to slow down then they can get frustrated," she said. Her worst experience on the other end of the phone was the death of a baby. She said: "When the call finishes, you just have to let it go. I have to get on with it and I can't be emotional."

Kitten litter needs new homes



Linda Case from the Cats Protection League with two of the kittens needing rehoming

KITTENS rescued from a back garden in the Black Country now need loving new homes.

Teddy, Lily, Rosie and Fleur, all just six-weeks old, were rescued from a garden in West Bromwich late last month and are now almost ready to be rehomed.

Caretress Linda Case, aged 72, said the kittens' journey had not been without hardship, with Fleur having to have both eyes removed and Lily losing one of her eyes due to ulcers.

Mrs Case, of Spies Lane, Halesowen, said: "They are such lovely kittens. Fleur has coped so well. She obviously can't see but she listens to the others and knows when they run past and she can chase them."

"It's fascinating to watch." The four kittens were among a litter of six who were

found at the house. A couple looking after their mother said they were not able to cope with the kittens, which were then just three weeks old.

Two of the kittens died before Mrs Case and her colleagues at the Cats Protection League were able to pick them up. Mrs Case said: "I don't know how the others survived as long as they did. They were on a wet pillow with a makeshift bed and it was damp and cold."

"The mother didn't want to leave them but the people who lived in the house said they just couldn't take care of them all."

With 50 kittens already under the care of the Cats Protection League, and no official base to keep them, Mrs Case keeps the kittens at home. Contact Maureen Lomas on 0121 550 8038.

Veterans are called to medal ceremony

ARMED forces veterans are being called to come forward to have special medals and badges presented to them by the Mayor of Dudley.

Mayor, Councillor Alan Finch will make presentations, including the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges, Arctic Stars and Bomber Command clasps at the Armed Forces Day event at Himley Hall on June 30.

Councillor Finch said: "Armed forces veterans are very much at the heart of the celebrations."

The event includes a band concert, display of military vehicles and family entertainment. Second World War veterans who served on the arctic convoys and in Bomber Command can request their badge before Armed Forces Day by calling 08457 800 900.

Anyone entitled to one of the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges should call 0800 169 227 or email SPVA-VeteransBadges@mod.uk. Anyone who has already received a badge but not had it presented can contact 01384 815222.

Austen's event

STOURBRIDGE'S Soroptomist International group is marking the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice with a strawberries and cream afternoon tea on June 12 from 2pm to 5pm at Himley Hall, near Dudley. Tickets cost £18.50. Call 01384 298814.

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makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients," he said.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting dentures, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks. Can dentures be glamorous? Emphatically, yes."

"We are on the cusp of development, so that those who entrust their smile to us can be sure they will be advised on best options."

Steven's work has attracted people from all walks of life, including a former SAS mountain warfare specialist, an airline pilot, a multi-millionaire with his own jet, health professionals and "ordinary

salt-of-the-earth people from the Black Country." The clinic's prosthetics, hand-crafted at laboratories at the Dudley and Wolverhampton practices, have also found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal. And the secret of his success? A seamless service to clients, where clinical assessment and the crafting of prescriptions are all in-house.

"It's a simple formula," said Steven, "but it has allowed me to be fastidious about the quality and we will never compromise on best clinical outcomes."

He admitted that denture wearers are one of the most challenging groups to treat successfully.

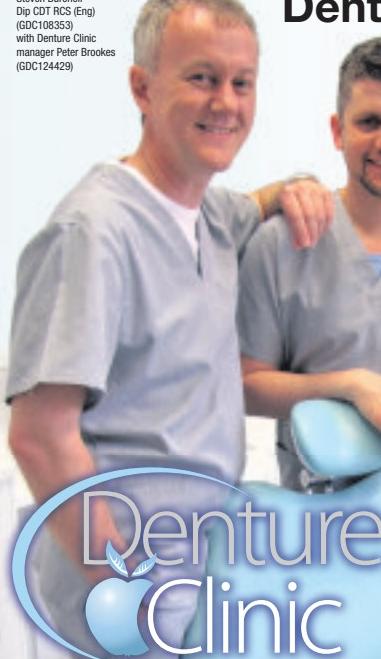
"I believe many of them have had a bad deal for years, but we are in the vanguard of changing outcomes and hopefully changing some lives for the better too," said Steven.

Steven draws on more than 30 years' experience in all disciplines of dental technology to produce his hallmark "functional, natural-looking teeth."

Having completed his training as a dental technician and started his own laboratory, Steven enrolled on a three-and-a-half year CDT training course with the George Brown College in Toronto, Canada, to enable him to work in his dental discipline independently of a dentist.

Graduating with honours, Steven undertook a further year's study under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons.

Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
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REVIEWS

Hurry as feel-good show not hair for long

Hairspray, Birmingham Hippodrome. YOU can't stop the beat in Birmingham, where the new revival of West End feel-good show Hairspray is great escapist fun.

It is a delirious and delightful combination of memorable toe-tapping 60s-style songs, demented dance moves plus some of the most outrageous hair-dos (and don'ts) you ever will see.

It comes with a big dollop of humour,

warm-hearted racial harmony message, vibrant sets and energetic cast.

This production's big – and I mean BIG – assets are Mark Benton, from TV's Waterloo Road, as heroine Tracy Turnblad's formidable mom Edna, and Freya Sutton displaying boundless energy and an excellent voice as Tracy in her professional theatre debut.

There is excellent support from X Factor's Marcus Collins as slick

Seaweed J Stubbs, Lauren Hood as the shrill Penny Pingleton and Sandra Marvin's soul diva Motormouth Maybelle. But the highlight for me remains the classic Timeless To Me song and routine featuring Edna and her pint-sized husband Wilbur, played with impish humour by Paul Rider.

If you're a smile put on your face, go see Hairspray before it ends on Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Entertaining play performed by an outstanding cast

The Mousetrap, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

WHEN the queen of crime, Agatha Christie, saw The Mousetrap open in London's West End back in 1952, I wonderwhether she herself thought it had the potential to run continuously for the next 60 years.

It certainly isn't the very best example of her work – other murder mysteries are equally as gripping – and yet there is still something very special about the way it has held audiences in the palm of its hand for over six decades.

In true Christie style, a group of quirky characters are assembled, this time at a small country guest house. After hearing of a murder, they become increasingly uneasy in the company of one another as their suspicions are aroused.

Well that's it in a nutshell, but the appeal and longevity of The Mousetrap has always been the surprising twist at the end which audiences are asked not to reveal.

The performance style is

exaggerated and over the top, but works perfectly as the script is humorous and very 'English'.

It isn't taxing on the brain and the storyline glides along at just the right pace. The set is excellent and visually authentic.

Corrie star, Bruno Langley is the quintessential English gent Giles Ralston, coupled perfectly with ex-EastEnder, Jemma Walker as his wife Mollie, whose excellent portrayal of her character gives the impression she is a woman with a secret from the very start.

Steven France as Christopher Wren brings just the right amount of humor to the piece and there is a wonderfully droll performance from Karl Howman as Mr Paravicini.

The reveal is by no means easy to predict, but the chances are you will forget the conclusion anyway before long.

The Mousetrap is just a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining play, in this case performed by an outstanding cast. It runs until Saturday.

Alison Norton

Folk singer shows his story-telling penchant

Chris Wood, Glee Club, Birmingham

CHRIS Wood is one of those performers who has reached the age where grumpiness is obligatory, cynicism is acceptable – as long as it's healthy – and yet has still managed to keep a touch of the endearing naughty schoolboy about his persona.

He is also one of those old folk tradition troubadours where the lyrics reign supreme.

The Kentish lad was flanked on the double bass by Neil Harland and keyboard player Justin Mitchell as they opened with John Barleycorn. Refreshingly he moved on to Caesar, a political song, something sadly lacking on the folk circuit at the moment.

The title track of his album None the Wiser lets his cynicism out for while. Wood went on to perform one of his staple songs Jesusalm, moving on to a more traditional sounding folk song in Let Me In.

He pulled one of Martin Simpson's out of the bag with Come Down Jehovah before Sofia, a love story from the Crusades, showed his penchant for storytelling.

Danny Farragher

Nothing funny about the prices at comedy festival

Comedy Hullabaloo, Stratford-upon-Avon

THIS new festival saw 35 comics in 25 stand-up shows over four days.

There were several big names among the rising stars but a sprinkling of empty seats suggests it still needs to become an established part of the festival calendar. Or maybe an average price of around £20 for typically four comics each doing 20 minutes was considered too pricey even for affluent Stratford.

There were few empty seats at The Courtyard as Sandi Toksvig held court with her healthy, witty Valentine show. Elsewhere, long-haired Seann Walsh impressed and Carl Donnelly was current. Mark Watson's nervy, self-analytical display reminded me of Woody Allen.

Leon Burakowski

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What's On! Halesowen

Come and have a laugh at showcase

STOURBRIDGE Town Hall is hosting the monthly comedy event Kum-na-avaloff.

The show on June 6 and every first Thursday of the month puts on the best up-and-coming talent from all over the UK before they hit the big time, giving audiences the chance to see cutting edge comedy at great prices.

Please note the show does contain Adult material. Not suitable for under 18s.

Curry and Rice is served during the Interval. Vegetarian option is available. Tickets are £8.00

Take it easy with an Eagles tribute

LOCAL band Take It Easy will be recreating the original sound of supergroup The Eagles at the Cornbow Hall, Halesowen.

Among the numbers performed will be Hotel California, Peaceful Easy Feeling, Take It To The Limit, Lyin' Eyes, One of these Nights, and many more. The Group is locally based.

The show starts at 7.45pm Friday June 21. Tickets are £10.00

Elvis tribute to rock the Robin

LEE 'Memphis' King brings his Elvis on Tour tribute show to the Robin 2 venue at Mount Pleasant, Bilston, tomorrow night (Friday) with band and backing singers.

Gasp at ghostly goings-on in romantic West End hit

New musical is set in the swinging 60s

CARNABY Street, a new jukebox musical set in swinging 1960s London, is coming to Birmingham with a host of hits from the era.

It tells the story of Penny Lane, a girl from Liverpool, aspiring Scouse musician Jude and a mister fixer character called Jumpin' Jack who find themselves at the epicentre of the mod and music scene in 60s Soho.

The producers may not have managed to get the rights to perform every hit they may have wanted to include but there are still plenty of favourites, from You Really Got Me to Go Now, to ensure a compilation album will accompany the show.

Emmerdale

The cast has solid soap and musical credentials. Verity Rushworth, as Penny, was Donna Dingle in Emmerdale and went on to make her West End debut in Hairspray and replaced Connie Fisher as Maria for the UK tour of The Sound of Music.

Ex-Eastender Aaron Sidwell, as Jack, was in Loserville The Musical and Matthew Wycliffe, as Jude, has Jersey Boys on his CV.

Carnaby Street will Keep On Running at the New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.



Talking 'bout My Generation - Verity Rushworth and Aaron Sidwell in a scene from Carnaby Street The Musical, coming to Birmingham

HIT West End show Ghost The Musical makes the Midlands debut of its first UK tour at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday.

Based on the popular 1990 movie, starring Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore, the musical features the iconic song Unchained Melody along with new songs written by Dave Stewart of The Eurythmics.

Psychic

The story about murdered Sam, desperate to make contact with his girlfriend Molly via reluctant psychic Oda Mae Brown, features astonishing illusions bringing the supernatural to the stage. With direction from Matilda director Matthew Warchus, the leads are played by Stewart Clarke and Rebecca Trehearn. Wendy Mae Brown takes on the role of namesake Oda, played in the movie by Whoopi Goldberg.

Ghost continues at the Grand until June 15.



Stewart Clarke pictured with Rebecca Trehearn in Ghost The Musical

Tupele takes on Rita role in play

FORMER Coronation Street star Tupele Dorgu, who last year toured in the musical Chicago, takes the title role in Educating Rita at Lichfield's Garrick Theatre from tomorrow (Friday) to June 22.

Willy Russell's play about a Scouse hairdresser striving for an education with help from a boozey lecturer was made into a hit 1983 movie starring Black Country actress Julie Walters and Michael Caine.

Tom Roberts from the Garrick Rep company plays lecturer Tom.

Disco legend to top bill at festival

DISCO stars Chic, featuring legendary producer Nile Rodgers, will be topping the bill at the Mostly Jazz Funk and Soul Festival at Moseley Park, Birmingham, on Sunday, July 7, with support from Brit funkers Soul II Soul.

Other acts at the three-day festival include Bonobos on July 5 and Candi Staton plus The Blockheads on July 6.

Red Dwarf/Coronation Street star and Radio 6 soul expert Craig Charles will be DJing. See the website mostlyjazz.co.uk.

Classic concert by Welsh singer

ACCLAIMED Welsh bass baritone Bryn Terfel will be singing works by Verdi, Bizet and Handel in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Friday, June 7.

Ballet home for summer season

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet return home from international touring to present two productions at the Birmingham Hippodrome on June 1.

Fans of The Nutcracker (returning this Christmas) should enjoy the classic Coppelia, in which a doll comes to life, from Monday to Saturday. Then ghostly ballet Giselle is staged from June 19 to 22.

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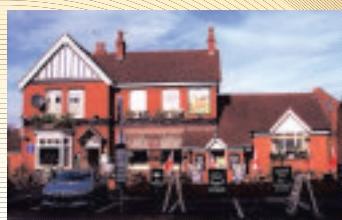
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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 1.06.13

CHOICE



Beyoncé

Beyoncé and Friends Live at Twickenham BBC1, 10.50pm

Yep, you read that right – the world-dominating Beyoncé and some of her best pop pals are taking over Twickenham Stadium for one night. Of course it's all in aid of a very good cause. The bootylicious Ms Knowles will be singing some of her biggest hits, as she headlines the event in aid of Chime For Change, a charity which campaigns for improved education, health and justice for women and girls worldwide. Beyoncé will be joined by the likes of Jennifer Lopez, Florence and the Machine, Ellie Goulding and Rita Ora.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) 12.00 BBC News – Regional News: Weather. **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) 1.00 Live MotoGP. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Total Wipeout. (R) **5.00** Deadly Bloopers. **5.30** A Question of Sport.
- 6.00 Celebrity Mastermind.** (R) **6.30 BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.
- 6.50 Pointless Celebrities.** Debra Stephenson, Phil Daniels and the Cheeky Girls compete. (R)
- 7.35 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Scott Mills.
- 8.30 The Voice UK.** Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present the first knockout round, in which the judges reduce their teams of seven down to the three acts that will perform in the live show. Continues tomorrow.
- 9.40 Casualty.** When Tess witnesses a stabbing, she becomes involved with the victim and the attacker. Charlie helps a couple whose relationship is affected by the wife's long-term illness.
- 10.30 BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.
- 10.50 Beyoncé and Friends Live at Twickenham.** Highlights of this evening's Chime for Change concert.
- 11.50 Beyoncé: Life Is But a Dream – An Imagine Special.** (R)
- 1.20 Weatherview.** 1.25 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 This Is BBC Two.** **6.40 Film:** Curtains Call. (1994) 7.45 Film: Fighting Fever. (1947) **8.30 Film:** Sing Me to Sleep. (1924) **9.30 A History of Scotland.** (R) **11.00 Man.** (R) **11.30 Just a Minute.** (R)
- 12.00 The Chef's Protege.** (R) **1.00 The Chef's Protege.** (R) **1.30 The Chef's Protege.** (R) **2.00 The Chef's Protege.** (R) **2.30 EastEnders.** (R) **4.20 Auction Hero.** (R) **5.20 Coast.** **6.05 Flog It!** From Kidderminster, Worcestershire. (R)
- 7.05 Dad's Army.** Pike borrows Mainwaring's car. (R)
- 7.35 A Tudor Feast at Christmas.** Historians and archaeologists turn back the clock to recreate a feast with the ingredients, recipes and cooking methods that would have been used more than 400 years ago. (R)
- 8.35 Henry VIII: Patron or Plunderer?** Part one of two. Profile of the Tudor monarch who ordered the killing of ardent monastics during his reign, yet was a cultured man.
- 9.35 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl.** (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between two sisters as they compete for the affection of King Henry VIII. Historical facts from Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.
- 11.25 The Tudors.** Thomas Cromwell's ruthless reforms spread terror through an increasingly vulnerable Catholic Church, while Anne Boleyn worries her position on the king's side is under threat. (R)
- 12.20 The Tudors.** (R) **1.10 Film:** Borderline Murder. (2011) 2.35 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** Special Agent Oso. **6.10 Special Agent Oso.** **6.25 The Hive.** (R) **6.35 The Hive.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** **7.00 Dino Dan.** **7.15 Camimals.** (R) **7.35 Ultimate Spider-Man.** (R) **7.45 Jessie.** 8.25 ITV News. **8.30 Dinner Date.** (R) **9.25 The Jersey Kyle Show.** (USA) **10.00 My Tasty Travels with Lynne Bellini.** (R) **11.20 ITV News:** Weather. **11.30 Saturday Farm.** **12.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **1.30 River Monsters.** (R) **2.35 All Star Family Fortunes.** (R) **3.20 The Chase.** (R) **4.20 Film:** The Borrowers. (1997). Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. **6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.
- 6.15 ITV News:** Weather.
- 6.30 You're the Frat Boy!** Wheebarrow goes and cheeky Chihuahuas. (R)
- 7.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the last live semi-final, as nine acts compete for the remaining two slots in the final and the chance to appear at this year's Royal Variety Performance. The results are at 9.30pm.
- 8.30 Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was.** The comedian entertains an audience as a hologram.
- 9.30 Britain's Got Talent Results.** The last two finalists are announced.
- 10.00 The Americans.** New series. Drama following two Soviet spies living undercover in 1980s America.
- 11.20 ITV News:** Weather.
- 11.40 French Open Tennis.** Action from day seven at Roland Garros in Paris.
- 12.20 Jackpot247.** **2.00 The Starter Wife.** (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35 British GT.** **7.00 The Grid.** **7.30 FIM World Superbikes.** (R) **7.50 Somebody Loves Pauline.** (R) **8.30 Every Lovin' Thing.** (R) **9.30 Mr. & Mrs. Tunnels of Death: The Big Dig.** (R) **10.40 Emergency Bikers.** (R) **1.40 CSI: Miami.** (R) **2.30 CSI: Miami.** (R) **3.30 CSI: NY.** (R) **4.25 CSI: NY.** (R) **5.25 Film:** The Vikings. (1958) **7.25 5 News: Weekend.**
- 7.30 NCIS.** Gibbs' former mother-in-law surfaces as a witness in a murder investigation. (R)
- 8.30 NCIS.** A marine is found with a gunshot wound six years after he disappeared in Afghanistan, and the team discovers he vanished while carrying out an undercover mission. (R)
- 9.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** (USA) **10.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **6.05 Come Dine with Me, IT.** enthusiast Ryan Bruce hosts the fourth dinner party in Leicester and tries to woo his guest with a Spice-inspired menu and a salsa lesson. (R)
- 6.35 Come Dine with Me.** Double-glazing salesman Richard Deeping hosts the final party in Leicester, and hopes to impress with his culinary prowess before the winner is announced. (R)
- 7.05 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.30 Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud meets actor Sean Simons, who has bought the ruins of Cloontynilla Castle in the Republic of Ireland with a view to creating a spectacular mock-16th-century home. (R)
- 8.30 Film: Transformers.** (2007) A team of robots in a first car leads him into an intergalactic war between two factions of giant shape-changing robots. Sci-fi action adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf.
- 11.15 Jimmy Carr: Making People Laugh.** The comedian performs in Liverpool. (R)
- 12.15 By Highlights.** **12.45 Film:** Perry's Pound. (2009) **2.15 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.20 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.15 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **10.05 Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** (R) **10.40 ThunderCats.** (R) **11.00 Highland Games.** (R) **12.00 The 25th Man's Tunnels of Death: The Big Dig.** (R) **14.40 Emergency Bikers.** (R) **1.40 CSI: Miami.** (R) **2.30 CSI: Miami.** (R) **3.30 CSI: NY.** (R) **4.25 CSI: NY.** (R) **5.25 Film:** The Vikings. (1958) **7.25 5 News: Weekend.**
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- 12.15 By Highlights.** **12.45 Film:** Perry's Pound. (2009) **2.15 Hollyoaks.** (R) **4.20 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.15 Countdown.** (R)

Listings supplied by Press Association

DIGITAL

- BBC Three** **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel 7.15 Merlin **8.00** Top Gear America Special – Part 2. **9.30** Russell Howard: Right Here Right Now **10.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad!
- BBC Four** **7.00** Oceans **8.00** British Masters **9.00** Arne Dahl: Europa Blues – Part One **10.30** Disco at the BBC **11.30** The Joy of Disco
- ITV2** **3.45** Britain's Got Talent **5.20** Britain's Got Talent Results **5.50** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **7.00** The Mindy Project (2011) **7.30** Jimmy Kimmel Live! **8.00** Britain's Got Talent **11.00** Celebrity Juice **11.45** Film: Unbreakable (2000)
- ITV3** **3.50** Jane Austen's Emma **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** Blue Murder **11.35** Taggart
- ITV4** **9.30** Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the seventh day's play from Roland Garros in Paris. **9.00** TT 2013. Highlights of the Superbike TT from the Isle of Man. **10.00** Film: Air America (1990) **E4** **5.25** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Cocktail (1988) **11.05** The Inbetweeners
- Film4** **2.45** August Rush (2007) **4.55** Devil Wears Prada (2006) **7.05** Drillbit Taylor (2008) Comedy, with Owen Wilson and Leslie Mann. **9.00** Shootout (2007). Action film, with Michael Wincott and Dennis Peña and Danny Glover. **11.25** The Hills Have Eyes (2006) Horror remake, starring Aaron Stanford.

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What's On!

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SUNDAY'S TV 2.06.13**CHOICE****Nicholas Farrell****Spying on Hitler's Army: The Secret Recordings****Channel 4, 8pm**

Nicholas Farrell heads the cast of this powerful docudrama which turns the spotlight on one of the Second World War's final secrets: a daring British intelligence operation to eavesdrop on the private conversations of 10,000 German PoWs without them knowing. With many dramatisations there's a feeling of dramatic licence being employed with the script. However, the original transcripts are dramatised word for word. British intelligence used three stately homes for this major operation, and converted each into a clever trap.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show, 10.00 The Big Questions, 11.00 Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead, 12.20 Countryfile, (R) 1.15 Bargain Hunt, (R) 2.00 Homes Under the Hammer, (R) 3.00 Points of View, 3.15 Escape to the Country, (R) 4.15 Songs of Praise, 4.55 The Queen's Passion for Horses, (R) 5.55 BBC News; Regional News; Weather, 6.15 **Countryfile**, Matt Baker follows a virtual trail that allows visitors to see the animals of Tentsmire forest, Fife. Ellie Harrison searches for terns on the mud-flats of the Hampshire coast. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.15 The Voice UK, Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present as the knockout rounds come to an end and the line-up for the live shows is revealed. The quarter-finals are on Friday at 7pm. **8.30 Case Histories**, Jackson helps a teenage boy understand why his murdered mother really died, and the PI receives a blast from the past when Julia arrives back in town. Last in the series. **10.00 BBC News**; Regional News; Weather. **10.25 The Matt Lucas Awards**. Compilation of highlights from the recent series. Last in the series. **10.55 Live with the Apollo**, With Al Murray, Chris Addison and Tim Vine, (R). **11.40 The Sky at Night**, The lives of stars and what happens when they die. **12.00 Film**: Honeymooner, (2010), 1.30 Weatherview, 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, 7.00 Film: Matador, (1933), 8.15 Gardeners' World, (R) 8.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening, 9.30 The Beech Grove Country, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen, Best Bites, 11.30 Chinese Food Made Easy, (R) 12.00 What to Eat Now, (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP, 2.00 Live Triathlon, 5.00 Diamond Jubilee Diamond, (R) 6.00 **The Bombusters: 70 Years On**, Dan Snow presents coverage from RAF Scampton of a tribute to the 133 men involved in the bombing raids on the dams of Germany's Ruhr Valley in 1943, (R) 7.00 **Peter Jones Meets**, New series. Leading entrepreneurs discuss their businesses with the Dragons' Den star, beginning with the people behind home and garden chain The Range and cosmetics company Lush. **8.00 New Giants**, Alice Roberts is investigating why certain species died out as the world warmed up, examining how the woolly rhino was unable to adapt to increasing snowfall. Last in the series. **9.00 Australia with Simon Reeve**, Simon Reeve meets members of a motorcycle gang in Gold Coast and takes to the air to witness the devastating and deadly fires rippling through the Bush. Last in the series. **10.00 Blackadder II**, Edmund is appointed Lord High Executioner. **10.30 Film**: The Road, (2009), Post-apocalyptic drama, starring Viggo Mortensen. **12.10 The Tudors**, (R) 5.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile, (R) 2.50 Holby City, (R) 3.50 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso, 6.10 Special Agent Oso, 6.25 The Hive, (R) 6.35 The Hive, (R) 6.40 Dino Dan, (R) 6.55 Dino Dan, (R) 7.05 Canimals, (R) 7.15 Canimals, (R) 7.20 Almost Naked Animals, (R) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, 8.00 Sonny with a Chance, 8.25 ITView, 8.30 Call the House Doctor, 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote, (R) 11.20 ITV News; Weather, 11.25 Film: Columbo, (1985) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and John Candy, 4.45 Deal or No Deal, 5.50 Film: Ice Age, (2002) 7.25 **Channel 4 News**.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People, (C) 6.10 The Hobbs, (R) 6.25 Bertie Higgins, (R) 7.00 Freesports on 4, 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 8.25 Frasier, (R) 9.00 Frasier, (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch, 12.40 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 1.10 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 1.45 The Simpsons, (R) 2.40 Film: Brewster's Millions, (1985) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and John Candy, 4.45 Deal or No Deal, 5.50 Film: Ice Age, (2002) 7.25 **Channel 4 News**.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig, 6.05 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 6.15 Bill and the Floundertots, (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show, (R) 6.45 Chloe's Closet, (R) 7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too, (R) 7.05 Bananas in Pyjamas, (R) 7.15 Animal Antics, (R) 7.20 Noddy and Toyland, (R) 7.30 The Adventures of Bottie Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky, (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina, (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear, (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 9.15 Doctor Who, (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 9.45 Jelly Jamm, (R) 10.00 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) 10.05 Power Rangers: Super Samurai, (R) 10.40 ThunderCats, (R) 11.05 Inside UK, (R) 12.00 Cowboys and Indians, (R) 12.30 Roary the Racing Car, (R) 12.45 **ITV2**, 2.00 Film: Evan Almighty, (2007) 4.00 Britain's Got Talent 5.30 Britain's Got Talent Results 6.00 Film: A Cinderella Story, (2004) 8.00 Film: Rumor Has It, (2005) 10.00 The Only Way Is Mars, 10.50 Big Rich Texas, 11.50 Film: Terminator 2: Judgment Day, (1991) **ITV3**, 2.00 Tom Brown's Schooldays 4.00 Lewis, 5.55 Roseanne, & Thyme, 6.00 Vera, The key to a murder lies deep in the memory of the victim's son, 10.00 Prime Suspect **ITV4**, 9.30 Live French Open Tennis, 9.90 TT 2013, 10.00 Film: Nevada Smith (1966) **E4**, 3.30 How I Met Your Mother 4.55 Revenge 5.50 The Mind Project 6.20 New Girl 6.50 The Big Bang Theory 8.15 Film: Zoolander (2001) 10.00 The Inbetweeners 11.00 Rude Tube: Animal Madness **Film**, 3.00 Valiant, (2005) 4.40 The Poseidon Adventure, (1972) 6.55 Edward Scissorhands, (1990) 9.00 The Tourist, (2010) Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp, 11.05 Good Luck Chuck (2007)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

AVP: Alien vs Predator, Channel 5, 11pm

A team of scientists investigates the discovery of a mysterious pyramid beneath the Antarctic ice, which is inhabited by a deadly alien race. Sci-fi thriller, starring Sanaa Lathan, Raoul Boava and Lance Henriksen. (2004)

TUESDAY

Lady in the Water, BBC1, 11.35pm

The caretaker of an apartment complex rescues a mysterious young woman struggling in the swimming pool. When the residents learn the stranger is a water nymph on a mission to save mankind, they rally round to help her return to her own world – but strange creatures are set to spoil their plans. Fantasy directed by M Night Shyamalan, who also appears in the film alongside Bryce Dallas Howard and Paul Giamatti. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Surrogates, BBC1, 11.05pm

In the future, all human activity is performed by robot duplicates mentally controlled by their owners, who live lives of complete isolation. As a mysterious killer begins murdering both humans and their doubles, an FBI agent ventures into the real world for the first time in years to catch the criminal. Sci-fi thriller, starring Bruce Willis and Radha Mitchell. (2009)



Surrogates, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY

Hunger Point, Channel 5, 3.10pm

Two sisters struggle to come to terms with the legacy of their mother's obsession with dieting and physical perfection. As they try to beat the strict conditioning she instilled in them, they begin to rebuild their shattered family life. Drama, starring Barbara Hershey. (2003)

FRIDAY

Point Break, BBC1, 11.55pm

An FBI agent goes undercover in a Californian surfing gang suspected of carrying out a series of armed robberies wearing masks modelled on former US presidents. However, his loyalties are tested to the limits when he is befriended by the gang's leader. Thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. (1991)

No Escape, Channel 4, 12.35am

A marine captain taken to an isolated island prison for killing his superior officer finds the captives have formed two distinct societies – one is striving to exist harmoniously in a fortified compound, while the other has descended into savagery. The soldier is drawn into helping the peaceful community defend itself from feral convicts while he plots his own escape. Sci-fi adventure, with Ray Liotta, Lance Henriksen and Stuart Wilson. (1994)

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Pick of the Week

Will the Jennings' hidden secret be uncovered?

Elizabeth and Philip. Mention those two names, and probably the people that come to mind are our present Queen and her consort, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Whether Joe Weisberg, former CIA member and the creator of *The Americans*, had them in mind when he came up with the characters featured here remains a mystery; they certainly don't have much in common with those denizens of the House of Windsor.

Instead of focusing on their marriage, it tells the story of two KGB agents who are posing as ordinary Americans in suburban Washington DC.

"It's not about us," says Rhys, "it's not about us at the time, it's difficult to imagine just how paranoid the world was during the Cold War. However, this fascinating new drama should provide viewers with an education into the last few years of the situation."

Set just after the start of Ronald Reagan's term as US President in 1981, it begins by making it clear that despite having entered into a

marriage of convenience, Philip and Elizabeth have developed real feelings together.

The pair have become genuinely close and now have a passionate relationship, as well as two children – 13-year-old Paige and Henry, 10 – who no have idea of their parents' true identity.

Philip is played by Matthew Rhys, whose previous most high-profile roles have come as Kevin Walker in the US series *Brothers and Sisters*, and the ITV drama *The Scapeman*.

"I think where you find Philip in his first episode is: he's come to a point in his life where he is no longer defined by his job," says Rhys. "The priority now in his life is his children. He's removed himself from Elizabeth's job as a shell life, and that the vice is slowly tightening and it's not something they can sustain."

"I think his real ambition in life is to secure the future for his children and for him and Elizabeth, really. His super-objective is to make sure that they're all safe – and the only real way to do that is to get out."

Philip thinks the perfect opportunity to do just that takes place in the first episode after he and his wife are ordered to kidnap Timoshov, a big shot at the KGB who recently defected to the US.

But the mission goes horribly wrong, and they're left with a hostage they can't seem to get rid of.

Philip thinks they should hand Timoshov back and defect themselves, but Elizabeth is horrified – she's still loyal to Mother Russia. But this division in their marriage is soon forgotten when an FBI agent moves in next door, and it's clear he's suspicious of his new neighbours...

Whether *The Americans* becomes ITV's answer to Channel 4's *Homeland* remains to be seen, but it certainly has potential.

It's the latest effort for the broadcaster to shore a US import, especially on a Saturday night – fingers crossed it works out well, because we're intrigued to see how this Elizabeth and Philip's story develops.



Matthew Rhys stars in *The Americans*, Saturday, ITV, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Vicious

ITV, 9pm

Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi have spent so long in the business, there's little wonder they handle what is essentially a glorified stage play with the skill of a couple of seasoned card players dealing ace after ace of comedy gold. It doesn't hurt that fellow showbiz star Frances de la Tour is also on board. After all, she was making millions of us giggle back in the days when co-star Iwan (Misfits) Rheon was a twinkle in his parents' eyes. This week, Freddie and Stuart invite Ash and new girlfriend Chloe to dinner. However, her annoying habit soon wind the camp thespians up. Meanwhile, Violet is having problems with her Argentinian lover.

TUESDAY
Body of Proof

Channel 5, 10pm

Hollywood loves a killer virus story, with projects such as *Outbreak*, 24 and *Contagion* creating edge-of-the-seat tension. As last week's chilling story reaches its conclusion, a lethal virus is being spread around Philadelphia, so the team race against the clock to find a cure before it's too late. Peter Morgan's girlfriend Dani and scores of others have already been killed by the disease, and Kate, head of the medical examiners' office, is also infected. Luckily she has stabilised and is now in quarantine. FBI Special Agent Brendan Johnson suggests one of the victims may be the terrorist who spread the disease, so the

team search the city hospitals in the hope of finding him.

WEDNESDAY
Love and Marriage

ITV, 9pm

This new light-hearted drama in the Shirley Valentine mould stars Alison Steadman as Pauline Paradise. In episode one, she's retiring from work as a lollipop lady. It's a major event in her life, but the only person who notices or seems to care is Peter Bachman (Bruce Alexander), who gives her a present. Pauline feels put upon and taken for granted by her family, and the pressure builds when her dad, Frank (David Ryall), has an accident. Seeking comfort from Ken, he cruelly dismisses her, which is the final straw for Pauline, who decides to make a fresh start.

THURSDAY
Coma

Channel 5, 9pm

Back in the late 1970s, Robin Cook's novel *Coma* was turned into a hit-and-miss thriller with Michael Douglas and Genevieve Bujold. After more than 30 years, the subject matter (creepy goings on at a hospital) was ripe for a remake, and this large dose of adrenaline should pep up your night's viewing a treat. Lauren Ambrose plays medical student Susan Wheeler who starts her first year of training at the Peach Tree

Memorial Hospital, built by her late grandfather. Because an unusually high proportion of operations are resulting in the patient falling into a coma, Susan suspects something is going wrong at the hospital, but her investigations are soon thwarted at every turn.

Life Savers

BBC1, 9pm

We have a tendency to overuse certain phrases: for instance, someone, somewhere, will have been described as a "life-saver" today for something as simple as bringing a colleague a cup of tea. Which is all well and good, but where does it leave the people who genuinely do save lives on a day-to-day basis? This documentary captures the work of emergency medical crews at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, as cameras follow patients from the roadside to treatment and recovery. In the first episode, a head-on collision traps a family of three in one car and a single driver in the other. Thanks to consultant Rod Mackenzie and his colleagues, things could have been a lot worse. Now that's a life-saver.



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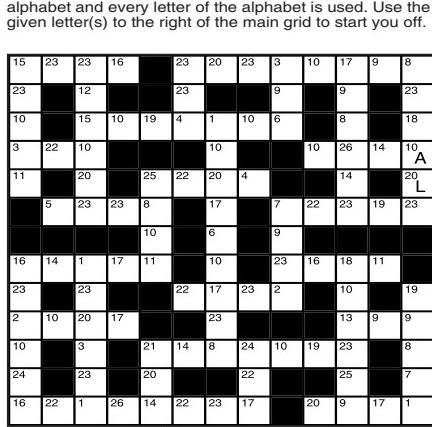
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	S	2	W	3	O	4	G	5	F	6	Y	7	V	8	H	9	K	10	Q	11	U				
14	T	15	C	16	P	17	D	18	L	19	J	20	E	21	N	22	B	23	I	24	M	25	A	26	X

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DEWSBURY WF13 2BR**Double Crossword**

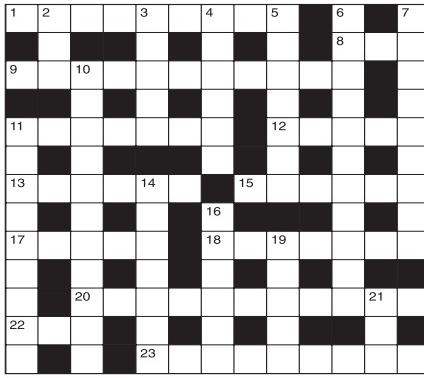
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Made one's mark as a non-runner? (9)
- I personally am included in the negotiations (3)
- Advantageously provided for - as a spa will be (4-7)
- Stop on board (5,2)
- Dougie lost nothing in contriving to become a leader (5)
- Shoots descendants (6)
- It's fearfully ugly (6)
- May's past ability (5)
- Stamp something out (7)
- His role may be grand or comic (5,6)
- Slippery part of the elm (3)
- Unwilling to give credit (9)

Down

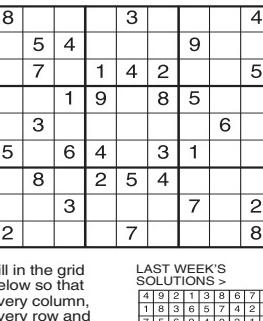
- It's needed by potters and actors (3)
- The rent is halved in that place (5)
- Bay of the hounds? (6)
- Do have a flutter, old lady! (7)
- Special band for the match (7,4)
- A warm tent to put up for a S. African (9)
- The part of a conductor? (7,4)
- Won't a teller handle such cash? (4,5)
- Spicy little things, crazy about Margarett! (7)
- He stole away from the shore (6)
- The object of putting nothing in a pint (5)
- Middle of the rain period (3)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Fivefold (9)
- Single (3)
- Announcement (11)
- Mats (7)
- Of those (5)
- Vindicate (6)
- Injury (6)
- Lucifer (5)
- Want (7)
- Order (11)
- Decay (3)
- To the letter (9)

Down

- Employ (3)
- Track (5)
- Laud (6)
- Letter (7)
- Suitableness (11)
- Submission (9)
- Focus (11)
- Convey (9)
- Universal (7)
- Lodestone (6)
- Guide (5)
- Nothing (3)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	2	1	3	8	6	7	5
1	8	3	6	5	7	4	2	9
7	5	6	2	4	9	3	1	8
9	1	4	7	8	3	2	5	6
3	7	8	5	6	2	9	4	1
6	2	5	4	9	1	8	3	7
2	6	7	9	1	4	5	8	3
5	3	1	8	2	6	7	9	4
8	4	9	3	7	5	1	6	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Effect; 4 Artist; 9 Bank overdraft; 10 Say when; 11 Alter; 12 Guide; 14 Tenet; 18 Raise; 19 On a diet; 21 Dressed to kill; 22 Reside; 23 Orphan. Down: 1 Emboss; 2 Full of life; 3 Stretcher; 4 Stretcher; 5 At the finish; 7 Tutors; 8 Teach; 13 Dressed; 15 Trader; 16 Bonds; 17 Stolen; 20 Amour. QUICK - Across: 1 Repair; 4 Errand; 9 Chronological; 10 Emperor; 11 Limit; 12 Scope; 14 Broom; 18 Incur; 19 Radiant; 21 Pronunciation; 22 Listen; 23 Clinch. Down: 1 Rishes; 2 Perspicacious; 3 Inner; 5 Regular; 6 Accommodation; 7 Dilute; 8 Glory; 13 Perfume; 15 Dispel; 16 Track; 17 Stench; 20 Drawl.

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Rare chance to acquire a home in prestigious area

A DETACHED bungalow on a small private drive in one of Wolverhampton's most sought-after areas and close to Tettenhall's Upper Green is for sale with a price guide of £345,000.

The property in Wood Road, Tettenhall, benefits from gas central heating with accommodation briefly comprising of fitted cloakroom, lounge with distinctive fireplace, separate sitting room, dining room, kitchen with adjoining laundry, three double bedrooms and bathroom with bath and separate shower cubicle.

The cloakroom has a wash hand basin and WC while the lounge measuring 17ft by 16ft 2in has an ornate moulded fireplace with marble slips and hearth and living flame gas fire.

The sitting room, 12ft 11in by 11ft 5in, has double doors to a dining room which is 16ft 6in by 10ft 4in and has patio doors to the garden while the kitchen - 11ft 5in by 9ft - has a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, inset one and a half bowl stainless steel sink, glass-fronted display cabinets, integrated oven and four ring hob with extractor canopy and plumbing for automatic dishwasher.

A laundry, 7ft by 5ft, has fitted cupboard and work surface with plumbing for automatic washing machine.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath, separate shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outsides is a lawned garden to the front and side with a planted rockery, paved patio, shrub borders and screening walls, with double gates to a side driveway leading to a garage, workshop and store.

A side gate leads to a walled rear garden with extensive paved patio areas, shaped lawn, rockery and shrub beds.

Call Bartlams on 01902 759888.



This bungalow in Wood Road, Tettenhall, has a guide price of £345,000

Three-bed near local amenities



This extend house is located in Cotwall End, Sedgley near Brownswall Road

AN extended and spacious three-bedroom detached house in Cotwall End, Sedgley, is on the market based on offers around £250,000.

The property is within a short walk of local amenities along Brownswall Road, with more available in Sedgley and Wombourne, as well as Wolverhampton, Dudley and Stourbridge. The accommodation briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge with walk-in bay window, living flame gas fire in marble surround and sliding doors to an extended sitting/dining room.

The kitchen has been extended to the rear which provides a separate dining area with

access to a cloak/shower room, while on the first floor are three bedrooms - all with built-in wardrobes - and a family bathroom.

The property is on a corner plot with gardens to the front, side and rear. Access to the front is through a pedestrian gate with block paved path to the front door, with the well stocked garden having a shaped lawn with shrub borders leading to a hard landscaped rear garden with ornamental pond with rockery, conservatory, timber summerhouse and garage with store/workshop.

Call estate agent Berriman Eaton on 01902 326366 for further details about this property.

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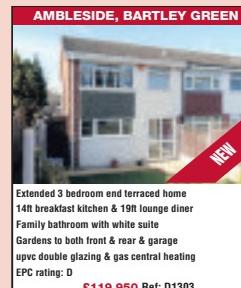
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UPVC DB6, GCH, Epc Rating E
£169,950 Ref: D753



WILLOWSBROOK ROAD, HALESOWEN
Extended 3 bed home - no upward chain
27ft lounge diner & 19ft breakfast kitchen
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GCH & majority UPVC double glazing
EPC rating:
£149,950 Ref: D1311



WARWICK CLOSE, OLDBURY
Mews home with 3 good sized bedrooms
Located in a cul-de-sac position
23ft lounge diner and 10ft10 kitchen
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UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
Gardens to front & rear. EPC rating: C
£119,950 Ref: D1299



AMBLESIDE, BARTLEY GREEN
Extended 3 bedroom end terraced home
14ft breakfast kitchen & 19ft lounge diner
Family bathroom with white suite
Gardens to both front & rear & garage
upvc double glazing & gas central heating
EPC rating: D
£119,950 Ref: D1303



BIRCHLEY PARK AVENUE, OLDBURY
Modern home in cul-de-sac location
15ft9 lounge & 12ft dining kitchen
2 double bedrooms & bathroom
Upvc double glazing & gas central heating
Driveway to front giving off road parking
Garden to rear.
EPC rating:
£105,995 Ref: D1314



BROADWAY COURT, OLDBURY
Ground floor flat with allocated parking
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Double bedroom with built in wardrobes
Bathroom with white suite & shower
Electric heating, UPVC DB6, epc rating c
£99,950 Ref: D1308



CHICHESTER DRIVE, QUINTON
Well proportioned 3 bed detached home
Individual architect designed property
16ft 5 kitchen/diner & family room
Separate lounge & downstairs WC.
3 generous sized bedrooms
Luxury bathroom. Off road parking. EPC: C
£175,000 Ref: D1293



ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK
3 bed semi with garage & parking
Close to warley park & oldbury border
Two reception rooms, kitchen
Front & enclosed rear garden
Benefiting DB6 & gas central heating
No upward chain. EPC rating: E
£169,950 Ref: D1296



RIDGACRE ROAD, QUINTON
Traditional semi-detached home with driveway
Lounge diner & fitted kitchen
3 bedrooms & bathroom
UPVC DG & GCH
Driveway to front & garden to rear
EPC rating E
£134,950 Ref: D1280



MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY
Spacious 2/3 bed home in cul-de-sac
Refitted breakfast kitchen & lounge diner
Downstairs wc & 2nd floor family bathroom
Driveway to front & private garden to rear
UPVC DG & GCH
EPC rating: D
£112,950 Ref: D1287



FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN
Four bed extended home with garage
Extended kitchen & UPVC conservatory
20ft max lounge & separate dining room
Master fitted bedroom with ensuite shower
Three further bedrooms & family bathroom
Block paved driveway & garage. EPC rating E
£209,950 Ref: D1182



ABBEY CRESCENT, OLDBURY
Semi-det home with 3 good size bedrooms
15ft lounge, 14ft kitchen & downstairs wc
No upward chain - vacant possession
majority upvc DG & gas central heating
Generous lawn rear garden
Part paved frontage - EPC rating: C
£137,500 Ref: D1295

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HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road

Located in the desirable area of Romsey. This unfurnished semi-detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views, inspection strongly recommended. EPC: E £875 PCM



HALESOWEN, Whittingham Road

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'p' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F £650 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, Newland Gardens

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned full width conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D £650 PCM



HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B £600 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, Wheeler Street

A traditional 3 bedroom mid terraced property in the highly sought after Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Featuring front reception room with original marble fireplace, rear reception room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 large double bedrooms and 1 large single. Lovely rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. On road parking. Available 20/06/13. EPC: D £595 PCM



HALESOWEN, Mount Street

Centrally located to Halesowen. This wonderful presented end terraced house features 2 good size reception rooms, open plan modern kitchen, 2 big double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, medium sized rear garden and on road parking. EPC: E £550 PCM



HALESOWEN, The Infield

Stunning and modern apartment on a sought after new estate. This ground floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, large lounge with superb kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Available immediately. Not to be missed! EPC: C £550 PCM



HALESOWEN, Green Lane

An unfurnished 3 double bedded property close to all amenities featuring 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, large dining room, new upstairs bathroom with shower, double glazing throughout, gas central heating, off-road secure parking space at rear of property. EPC: E £550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, Timbertree Crescent

Located within easy reach of Timbertree School. This semi-detached house has been fully refurbished to a high standard and features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen/diner, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, rear garden having outbuildings. On road parking. Available now. EPC: C £525 PCM



HALESOWEN, Colley Lane

Wonderfully presented and modern. A mid-terrace house on a popular road which is close to Colley Gate Primary School and local shops. Features 2 double bedrooms, large dining kitchen, modern lounge, house bathroom with shower, downstairs WC, tiered garden, on road parking. Available 7th June. Not to be missed! EPC: C £525 PCM



HALESOWEN, Willets Drive

A few minutes walk from buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. This wonderfully presented mid-terrace property features 2 double bedrooms, nicely decorated lounge, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, front and rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: C £510 PCM



TIPTON, Peartree Avenue

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house has undergone a redecoration. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and is in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C £500 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, Court Street

A 2 bedroom traditional terraced property in the centre of old hill which features 2 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 1 single room, modern fitted kitchen and downstairs bathroom with shower and separate toilet. Gas central heating. Walking distance to rail/bus links. EPC: E £495 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, Bagley Street

Deceptively large and within walking distance to Stourbridge town centre. This lovely semi-detached house features a large lounge, large dining kitchen with gas oven and hob, 2 double bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking, double glazing, gas central heating. Available now. EPC: D £485 PCM



HALESOWEN, Client House

Stunning views from this top floor apartment. Located within walking distance to Halesowen, the apartment features 2 double bedrooms, a light and airy lounge, house bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with a small fridge, warm air heating, double glazing. Available now. EPC: D £475 PCM



DUDLEY, Anchor Drive

Modern and comfortable living. This 2nd floor apartment is set in a quiet location, with easy access to Dudley, Tipton, Wednesbury and the M5. The property features 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen with integrated electric oven and hob, white bathroom suite with shower, spacious lounge with patio doors opening to a Juliet balcony, electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. EPC: B £475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court

This new build second floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath town centre comprises; one bedroom, open plan lounge/kitchen with fridge freezer and washer/dryer, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, Juliet balcony, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: B £450 PCM



LYE, High Street

Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good sized bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: B £450 PCM



HALESOWEN, Hamilton Avenue

Located on the ever so popular estate of the Abbey Fields. This unfurnished first floor apartment features 1 double bedroom, modern kitchen, light and airy lounge, house bathroom with shower, own rear garden, garage. EPC: E £425 PCM



NETHERTON, St Georges Road

Spacious and quiet. A totally refurbished 1st floor apartment featuring electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC: D £395 PCM



NETHERTON, Baptist End Road

An unfurnished 1st floor flat comprising; living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC: D £395 PCM

Property

Solar panels mean heating comes free



The five-bedroom house which overlooks a paddock is on the market for offers based around £349,950

ELECTRICITY and heating come free with this five-bedroom detached house in the village of Bobbington in South Staffordshire, which is on the market for offers around £349,950.

Halfpenny Green Vineyard with a craft centre and fishing pool nearby.

The accommodation briefly comprises of guest cloakroom, lounge to sitting/dining room area with patio doors to conservatory overlooking the rear garden and breakfast kitchen with a range of base, drawer and wall units, work surfaces and integral appliances including induction hob with extractor over, oven, microwave, fridge and dish washer.

From the breakfast area patio doors open to the rear garden, while off the kitchen is a utility room with plumbing for automatic washing machine, sink and door to a double garage.

On the first floor the master bedroom has a range of fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room and there are four further bedrooms and a bathroom with corner bath, WC, wash hand basin, bidet and separate shower.

The house also benefits from uPVC double glazing, while outside is a large frontage with block paved driveway providing ample off road parking and small lawn, while the rear garden overlooking paddock land has a lawn, borders and large patio seating area.

Call Berriman Eaton on 01902 326366 for more details.



The master bedroom on the first floor has a range of fitted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room

Traditional semi on the market



A TRADITIONAL semi in Finchfield in Wolverhampton is for sale for offers based on £210,000.

Features include spacious entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, lobby with WC and utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, majority uPVC double glazed windows and attached garage.

There is also the possibility of extending the home to the side and rear subject to planning and building regulations.

The lounge, 12ft 3in by 12ft, has a feature fireplace with living flame gas fire and the dining room has a fireplace and a french window to the rear garden.

The kitchen has units space for cooker, and integrated dishwasher.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

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Denbigh Close, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £130,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, dining area, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Sledmore Road, Dudley



EPC E

Offers Over £115,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, extended dining room, extended kitchen, upstairs shower room and rear garden.

Maple Road, Dudley



EPC C

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, rear garden and garage.

Two Gates Lane, Halesowen



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Semi detached house with four bedrooms, garden and off road parking. Viewing is recommended.

Slater Close, Cradley Heath



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New Pool Road, Cradley Heath



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Sheepfold Close, Rowley Regis



EPC D

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This modern mid terraced house has accommodation comprising lounge, two bedrooms, parking space and rear garden.

Red Lion Close, Tividale



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Offers Over £120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Denbigh Close, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen/diner, bathroom, gardens and driveway.

Stourbridge Road, Dudley



EPC F

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Offers Over £95,000

Terraced four bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom and rear garden.

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Citroen letting the sun shine in



The chic Citroen DS3 Cabrio comes in three versions



The limited roof down rear view is compensated by parking sensors



The fabric roof is peeled back in just 16 seconds at the push of a button

READERS of a certain age will remember how we once broke into a tin of sardines for supper; by rolling the thin metal lid off with a little key.

You had to guard against either cutting yourself on the edges of the lid as it rolled itself into a cylinder, or be prepared for spillage and smelling like a fish counter for the rest of the evening. I'm not suggesting the latest version of Citroen's chic DS3 owes anything to an oily

sardine, except that when you let the sunshine in, the new Cabrio unwinds its fabric roof in something approaching an unconscious tribute to the humble toast topper.

The push of an overhead button furls the roof (and pulls it back up) in 16 seconds and at speeds up to 75mph, so a sudden English summer shower needs hold no terrors of damp seats and ruined hair.

Better still, even with the roof folded right back, the heater was able to keep out the chill of a spring morning, with snow on the ground,

so long as you kept speeds down to a town-like pace. Which is what, I'd guess, most DS3 Cabrios will be doing for most of their life. The range, which stretches from £15,045 to the £19,675 of the test car, is likely to be bought mostly by urban ladies who also looked at the MINI Convertible or Fiat 500C before heading for France.

What an owner of the DS3 and Fiat soft-tops share is a car that's not really a full convertible, which takes all the roof away when you want the sun on max.

Both cars leave the roof sides intact when the roof vanishes; good for keeping rattles at bay but giving more the feel of a giant sunroof than the real thing.

Pleasant enough though to imagine lots of people going for this version of a car that's already Citroen's biggest seller in Britain.

At launch there are three versions of the Cabrio, adding a substantial £2,345 for the privilege of the folding roof (Fiat charges more – £3,000, precisely – to remove the roof from its 500). Most popular is expected to be the

midrange DStyle with 120 horsepower and a £17,425 price tag. An automatic version of this model (£18,525) should now be available and might be an ideal, clutchless, in-town companion.

Keeping some of the metal roof in place means less need for extra strengthening in a cabrio version, meaning only a modest 25kg weight penalty over the tin-top DS3, when rivals find themselves adding four times that to keep things nice and rigid.

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Motoring



Smart at the rear – the V40 has a clever false boot which can be flipped



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Let's be honest with ourselves here; do we like the idea of 4x4s because we frequently get stuck crossing fields?

Or is it because they look a bit tougher, give a more commanding view of the road and are a bit more interesting than a standard hatchback?

You can answer that one for yourself but the reality for many people is that four-wheel drive is like a diver's watch; useful and practical but rarely extended to the limit of its abilities.

But they are hugely popular whether they are full-on mud pluggers or just look like them, which explains why Volvo has introduced a Cross Country version of its V40 hatchback.

There's a little clarification required here too: XC in Volvo-speak means SUV, such as the XC60 and XC90. But this isn't an XC, it's a Cross Country, so the majority of the range is only available in two-wheel drive.

That might sound like an odd decision, but the prospective V40 Cross Country customer will be more interested to hear about how it has improved cabin storage compared to the standard car, right down to a slot for the ice scraper with a drainage channel in the front door pockets – very clever.

Storage

In fact, the V40 is packed with this sort of thing, with the option of a folding front passenger seat, a storage pack for the boot with rails and dividers, and a clever false boot floor that can be flipped, removed or folded back.

It's the kind of attention to detail that Volvo is well known for, and makes a car like this so much easier to live with.

The most obvious changes are outside however, where the Cross Country wears all the trappings of an off-road machine.

There are chunkier bumpers, substantial roof scuff plates, smart roof rails finished in silver and a choice of alloy wheels including handsome 19-inchers.

The Cross Country also comes in a unique colour dubbed Raw Copper – it looks a lot nicer than it sounds.

Add to that the ride height raised by 40mm and arguably you have a car that makes the standard V40 look a little plain – unless you go for the R-Design version, of course – which is no coincidence.

Unlike the rest of the range, the top T5 model comes with four-wheel drive as standard, and all the better for it; the T5 designation means there is a turbocharged five-cylinder engine under the bonnet pumping out 254 horse-

power and 295lb.ft of torque.

Taken to the wheels through a six-speed automatic transmission, the Cross Country T5 has the numbers to make it something of a performance car; 0-62mph is despatched in under seven seconds and the top speed is only a fraction short of 150mph. It feels that fast on the move too.

And the four-wheel drive system is clever and highly effective; some time spent driving the Cross Country on a frozen lake in Sweden revealed that it is secure and reassuring with Volvo's DTSC system switched on, and surprisingly playful and fun if it turned off.

The modest flurries of snow and cold weather in the UK wouldn't trouble it in the slightest.

The seats are superb (with the option of contrasting trim, which looks pretty smart), the driving position is excellent and, of course, a fraction higher thanks to the increase in ride height, and the dashboard is both visually attractive and easy to use.

Standard

The standard V40 is far from impractical but the added features on the Cross Country version are still welcome.

It sounds much too like an advertising slogan but it gives a strong impression of being equipped for life, with plenty of thought given to the layout and how it can best suit a multitude of users and situations.

In fact, there are only two quibbles with the V40 Cross Country. Firstly is the price, with this T5 version checking in at almost £34,000, but then that is to be expected of a range-topper.

The second is the four-wheel drive; go for a cheaper version with more economical diesel and you lose the traction of two driven wheels.

However, if there's sufficient interest, the decision may be reversed, and you also have to honestly ask whether you really need four-wheel drive at all.

Bumper to bumper

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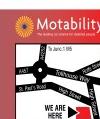
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We clean all types of domestic ovens,
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0121 544 8427

P&D

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Index

1 Family**2 Leisure Time****3 Home & Services****4 Pets & Animals****5 Farming****6 Business****7 Property****8 Jobs****9 Motoring****10 Local Information****11 Personals**

Lost & Found



BLUE PERSIAN CAT
Went missing on May 19 from the Huntlands Estate, in Halesowen. Oly is old and needs special food. Please call if you see him, we need him home.
0121 550 0604

LOST - African grey parrot, Sedgley area. Sunday afternoon, answers to Alfie. Reward if found. 07538 220702.

1

Family

baby needs

MAMAS & PAPAS cot bed, shelf, under draw, changing station, blanket box, bedding, bed guard, £400, free delivery. 01902 750553.

elderly & disabled

FOOT ABLE - Struggling to reach your toe nubs? Call for a home visit, 07846 326801 - NHS reg.

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MOBILITY SCOOTER
Excellent condition. Four wheels. Folds into boot. Can deliver. £295.
01584 891032, 07795 978707.

MOBILITY SCOOTER, good condition, four wheel, absolute bargain, £350. 07455 671414

MOBILITY SCOOTER, shop rider, fit into car boot, new batteries, £200. 07929 776681.

MOBILITY SCOOTER, very good condition. Four wheel. Can deliver locally if needed. £300. 07905 770683.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call 01902 750553 or 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

SHOPRIDER SCOOTER new batteries, good condition, folds up to fit in boot, £350. 01902 703603.

SHOWER CHAIR, as new, never been used, folds down, with arms, bargain £55. 01384 288496.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £450. Plus New Lifts. 01952 405397 / 07897 273617

toys

CLIMBING FRAME good quality steel frame tent, swings, slide, ladders, £90. 01902 750553.

2

Leisure Time

camping equipment

OUTWELL MONTANA 6 TENT, excellent condition, £300. 00. Telephone 01902 750936.

car boot sales

AFTERNOON SATURDAY BOOTSALE

12 noon (sellers from 10am). B4176 Rabbit Run by Folly Pub, between Dudley & Telford. www.bestbootssales.com 07890 267041.

BEST EVERY SATURDAY BOOTSALE

8am-2pm. Also Open Bank Holiday Monday's! B4176 Rabbit Run by Churnet Golf Course, between Dudley & Telford, WV15 5LR. www.bestbootssales.com 07890 267041.

FOUR BERTH

COACHMAN AMARA 580/4 4 Berth, 2000, 22ft twin axle, end bathroom, separate shower, excellent condition, full awning, non smokers, £4,250. 01922 400179.

COMPASS VANTAGE 4 berth, 1994, good condition, mover fitted, 1 full awning, 1 porch awning, cassette toilet, water carriers, etc, ready to go. £1,650. 00. Telephone 01902 834445.

BEST WEDNESDAY BOOTSALE

10am-2pm. IvyHouses Farm, A461, Spring Hill, Mucklow Cross, Walsall, WS10 0BX. www.bestbootssales.com 07890 267041.

BIGGEST EVERY SUNDAY BOOT SALE IN STAFFORDSHIRE

8am-2pm, A34, off A34, Cannock Chase, Brocton, ST17 0SC. www.bootssales.com 07890 267041.

SUPER EVERY SATURDAY BOOT SALE

10am - 2pm. Now at Barrecks Lane, off A461 & A5, Walsall Wood, between Lichfield & Walsall, WS9 0DL. www.bestbootssales.com 07890 267041.

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Insulated, decked out as well. Sited on Saltmarsh Caravan Leisure Park, Bromyard, big bang with good entertainment, kids play area and shop.

£8,000. Sale due to ill health. 01384 457219, 07923 191378.

ATLAS MOONSTONE 32X10

2 bedroom static, sited on small rural site in Crossgates, Powys, Mid Wales. Excellent condition.

£8,250. 00. 07778 392406.

BAILEY PAGEANT MAJESTIC

2008, 2 berth, end kitchen, excellent condition, many extras, including mover and new battery, selling due to ill health. £8,000. 00.

01582 822888.

BAILEY SENATOR SERIES 5

2007, 4-berth, end bathroom, Truma motor mover, Alko wheel lock, top of the range Isabella awning. Stabiliser, new tyres. Little used. No pets or smokers. Immaculate.

£7,500. 07831 627054. Codsall area.

BRADCO ACTIVE AWNING

990cm, burgundy with bedroom annexe and alloy poles. Starcamp porch awning, burgundy, alloy poles plus lightweight porch awning.

Milenco wheelcamp. £180 the lot. 01384 230779.

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CI CUSONA 200

Transit, 2.4, 59 plate, 14K miles, 4-berth. Fixed rear bed, reversing camera, cruise control, 3-way frige, shower and grill unit. Taxed, MoT'd

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WILLERBY LEVEN

2010, 37x12, 2 bed, DG, CH. West Wales, coat paid. £21,500. 07578 122072 or 01902 788875.

WILLERBY LINDHURST

37 x 12, 2 bed, DG, CH. Excellent condition throughout,

£10,750.

Beautifully located in Mid Wales.

All site fees included.

07522 2 83438 or 01686 413540.

FOUR BERTH

COACHMAN AMARA 580/4 4 Berth, 2000, 22ft twin axle, end bathroom, separate shower, excellent condition, full awning, non smokers, £4,250. 01922 400179.

01922 400179.

COMPASS VANTAGE

4 berth, 1994, good condition, mover fitted, 1 full awning, 1 porch awning, cassette toilet, water carriers, etc, ready to go.

£1,650. 00. Telephone 01902 834445.

DOREMA AWNING. Sirocco, green, size 3, 700/25 inner tent, used 3 times, £150. 01384 280118.

DOREMA PORCH AWNING, 330 x 250, 2 years old, aluminium poles, used 4 times, £275. 01562 824108

EELD'S AUTO STRATUS EK MOTORHOME

1997, 27,000 miles, 2.5 Peugeot diesel, manual, MoT, tax October 2013, 4 berth, end kitchen, toilet, shower, 240 hook up, non smoking, very good condition.

£11,500. 00. 01547 528078.

ELD'S TWO BERTH XPLORER 600

New in 2012, used only 2 weeks, fitted with mover mover and a full awning.

£10,000. 01902 885076.

FLEETWOOD Colchester 470

2002-2 berth, new in 2004, first used 2005, fitted with power mover, 2 awnings, plus many extras, serviced annually by approved dealer, 1 owner, non smokers, £6,000.

01746 767536 - 07985 293958

FLEETWOOD COLCHESTER 500EB

2000, 4 berth.

End shower / washroom. Blowbar heating, tiffscreens, blinds.

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PARK HOME

36 x 12, two bedrooms, on quiet site Shropshire North Wales. Border retired or semi retired only. £4,750.

07713 137283

PARK HOME

Omar 40 x 20, two double bedrooms, ensuite, walk in wardrobe, office, on quiet site, on the Shropshire North Wales Border, retired or semi retired only. £99,999. 07713 137283

SIX BERTH STATIC CARAVAN

nice location Welsh Valleys, quiet site many extras inc tv, fridge, microwave, bedlinen inc £6,000.00 ono, 2013 sites fees paid.

07973 319702 or 07960 637814 or 0121 211 218 1031

STATIC ATLAS Applause 5 Star, 30' x 10', 2 bedrooms, 2 tone interior, carpet and tiles, £1,500. 01691 610496.

STATIC CARAVAN

35ft x 12ft, 6 seats 5+, excellent condition, quiet site in Mid Wales, lovely views, large corner plot with 2 sheds, 2 fishing pools, fees paid for 2013. £8,000.00.

01562 825285 / 07714 771740

SWIFT CHALLENGER 360/2 SE

14ft delux, CRIS reg, DG, shower, cassette toilet, Bradcot awning as new £1,500. 01902 780761

WHAT'S ON

With decking, quiet site in Llanbrynmair, mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 2013 fees paid.

£3,500. 07502 061207. No texts please.

THREE BED STATIC VAN 35x10

With decking, quiet site in Llanbrynmair, mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 2013 fees paid.

£3,500. 07502 061207. No texts please.

NO texts please.

WILLERBY HAWTHORPE

2000cc, 1997/8, bodywork needs slight attention, interior excellent condition.

£9,500. 07902 901763/01562 631967.

WILLERBY LINDHURST

37 x 12, 2 bed, DG, CH.

Excellent condition throughout,

£10,750.

Beautifully located in Mid Wales.

All site fees included.

07522 2 83438 or 01686 413540.

FOUR BERTH

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£1,650. 00. Telephone 01902 834445.

LOOK

WILLERBY RIO GOLD

New, 28 x 12, 2 bed, DG,

CH, galvanised chassis, converted to service, real quality caravan. All manufacturers warranties sited

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Excellent buy. Genuine sale.

Bargain £24,750. 00.

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3

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A1 CITY CENTRE Aptt, fully furnished, parking, heating, DG £360 p.m. No DSS. 07966 266154.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Letting Act 1985 for an agent to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to

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PORTHMADOG BLACK ROCK SANDS

Big semi with parking for 10 cars plus caravan. Sleeps 5 plus extra room downstairs. Double glazing, re-tiled new roof. Only 500 yds to the beach, includes all furniture / caravans, £160,000ono 01902 608273, 07733 071083.

5
Farming

agriculture

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ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

FOR LOAN 14.2hh pony, Sedgley area. 07967 410340.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its breeder.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KING CHARLES CAVALIER cross Bichon (Cava-Chon), nine months old, friendly, £150. 07783 510488.

KITTENS FOR SALE, black and white, 7 weeks. Willenhall, £10. 01922 493788.

KITTENS two tabby and white, one pair, tail docked, ready, ready now, £40 to ensure good homes. 07790 531984.

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LOP EARED RABBITS. 2 males, 2 years old, free to good home. 01902 675814.

SHIH TZU'S also Cavapoos, ready now. £300 / £400. 07867 530504.

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8 year old brown and white Terrier type, in rescue due to new babies, allergy, lovely and friendly, good with other dogs and people.

SADIE

7 year old delightful little black broken coated Terrier girl, suit pensioner with no other pets.

GILBERT

3 year old male Terrier, golden colour, friendly boy with a lovely temperament.

01384 252158.

www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

SUZIE

Suzie is a young black Terrier type dog that was found abandoned and in a poor state. After having a litter of five in her foster home she is now ready to be adopted.

Suzie loves attention and cuddles and is good with children.

Although she has her naughty terrier ways, this makes her more adorable.

She loves long walks and is very active, microchipped, vaccinated and neutered.

For more information contact Brendalyne on 07838 905036.

TWO MINIATURE jack russell pups, black and white, parents on view. Ready now, £250. 01902 685399.

6
Business

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

7
Property

MOVING TO FRANCE?
House with land, letting cottage and pool. Idyllic rural lifestyle with income.

All for £248,000. Visit: <http://francehouseandgiteforsale.webs.com> for full details.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

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coast & country

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Big semi with parking for 10 cars plus caravan. Sleeps 5 plus extra room downstairs. Double glazing, re-tiled new roof. Only 500 yds to the beach, includes all furniture / caravans, £160,000ono 01902 608273, 07733 071083.

8
Jobs

courses

TOP GEAR DRIVER TRAINING

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DRIVER CPC TRAINING

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AT THE SAME TIME.

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Topgear-hgv@btconnect.com

BMW 318 CONVERTIBLE, 1999, powerhood, a/c, parking sensors, blue/blue hood, excellent condition, £3,250. 01562 710289.

BMW 320CI SE

2005, 55 reg, 64,000 miles, metallic grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, tacho, long MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas, tax, alloy, CD, spots, radio, 17" alloys, leather, hi-line pack, DVD player, Freeview TV, Bluetooth phone and audio, touch screen, full BMW service history, lovely condition.

£4,250.00 for quick sale.

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R reg, metallic, 66,000 miles, lady owner, very good condition, £895.00.

NISSAN MICRA

1.3i, 1999, low insurance, red, 6

Snooker first as Reanne qualifies

DUDLEY'S Reanne Evans has become the first woman to qualify for the final stages of one of snooker's ranking tournaments.

The nine-times world ladies champion beat Thailand's Thepchaaya Un-Nooh in Gloucester to book her place in the Wuxi Classic in China from June 17-23.

She came from 3-0 down to defeat Un-Nooh 5-4, with a highest break of 52.

But waiting for her in the first round is 2010 world champion Neil Robertson – and the Australian slotted a 147 maximum in winning his qualifier 5-0 against Egypt's Mohamed Khairy.

The 27-year-old collected just £400 for winning the ladies' world title last month, but will bag a minimum of £3,000 for appearing in round one in China.

"It's definitely the best result of my career so far," said Evans. "Hopefully this will show other women what can be done in snooker."

"It's a really big win for me because I have done it on merit."

"I've never been to China before but I'm really excited about it now and hopefully it will give me the chance to boost my profile out there."

"I was a bit nervous early on, but once I won a frame I settled down and played well. I felt fine in the last frame – then afterwards I was speechless."

Early exits for Dicken in contest

YOUNG Wednesbury darter Matthew Dicken experienced two first-round exits competing in the 'seniors' of the Players Championship.

The 20-year-old did manage to push the experienced Swede, Magnus Caris, to a last leg decider before bowing out 6-5, leaving him pinning his hopes on Sunday's event.

Dicken, again, had chances of his own to win the game but suffered another first round exit at Robin Park Centre, Wigan – this time 6-4 to Dan Russell, and left with nothing after missing the money stages.

Jamie Caven won both of the weekend's events, the Derby darter beating Paul Nicholson on Saturday and Dutchman Jelle Klaasen on Sunday, both 6-4.

Last-heat decider grounds the Robins

Swindon Robins 45 Birmingham 47

BIRMINGHAM took a stunning victory at the home of speedway's Elite League defending champions.

A rerun last-heat decider saw Martin Smolinski take the vital victory to add three precious league points to the two taken by the Brummies in the previous night's 46-44 home win over Wolverhampton.

But last Thursday's victory at Billunsdon was tinged with controversy after the Brummies' Jason Doyle fell on the opening turn of heat 15 and was disqualified.

The Swindon pairing of Davey Watt and Troy Batchelor had made

the start – and some home fans felt Doyle had taken a fall to give Smolinski a second chance in a rerun. Whatever the merits of that view, Smolinski seized his chance and led from tapes to flag to spark celebrations in the away section of the pits.

The German ace, who has been in blistering form this season, took off his crash helmet on his celebration lap to reveal the widest of smiles to the travelling fans.

"We're here for winning, not for losing," he said afterwards. "I'm

delighted to win here at Swindon and show how strong the Brummies are."

A fine start from the Selco Brummies saw them four points up after the first six heats.

Smolinski and fellow reserve Nico Covatti scorched past Ashley Birks in heat two for the first 5-1 of the evening. Then in the following heat Josh Auty powered past Eddie Kennett in the opening lap for third spot for a 4-2 in a race won by Danny King.

Heat six saw Smolinski squeeze

through the smallest of gaps down the straight to pass Kacper Gomolski and clinch a 4-2 with Doyle.

Team manager Phil Morris was back on a bike himself before heat seven. The former rider rushed out another machine to the mechanically-stricken Auty, much to the delight of the Brummies fans, although Auty eventually got his original bike running.

A little bit of argy-bargy between Smolinski and Gomolski after the two riders made contact for the second time on the night demonstrated the rising tension.

In heat nine, Kennett's engine failure meant he didn't even get off

the startline and the Doyle/Smolinski 5-1 over lone Robin Rory Schlein put the Brummies 10 up.

Two shared heats – including a crucial pass by Smolinski on double-point tactical rider Batchelor – kept the lead intact with four races to go. But two 5-1 home advantages in the next three races brought the home side within two points before the drama reached its height in the final race.

Swindon: Troy Batchelor 12, Davey Watt 10+, Rory Schlein 8+1, Kacper Gomolski 8+1, Edward Kennett 6+, Ashley Birks 5+,

Birmingham: Martin Smolinski 18-1, Jason Doyle 7+, Chris Harris 7, Danny King 6+1, Josh Auty 5+1, Ben Barker 2+1, Nico Covatti 2+1.

Brummies on form to wallop Wolves

Wolves 41 Birmingham 49

RAMPANT Birmingham grabbed their first league win at Monmore Green since 1979.

The Brummies have been on a stunning run of form and arrived on the back of a home victory over Wolves and a win at Elite League champions Swindon.

The Selco Brummies had too much strength in depth for the Parrys International Wolves, who sorely missed the injured Ty Proctor.

While Grand Prix duo Freddie Lindgren and Tai Woffinden were beaten only once each – by Chris Harris in heat 13 – the visitors had the strength in depth.

Wolves made the perfect start when Woffinden and Ricky Wells raced clear for a 5-1 – but Birmingham were soon well in the match despite an engine failure when leading for Nico Covatti.

Harris/Josh Auty maximum over Wells and Adam Skornicki in heat five put them four up and they never looked back.

Martin Smolinski topped, but that stunning heat 13 win for Harris all but guaranteed victory and Smolinski and Covatti finished the job off in heat 14.

Wolves: Ta Woffinden 13+1, Freddie Lindgren 10+1, Ricky Wells 5+1, Adam Skornicki 2+1, Jacob Throssell 2.

Birmingham: Martin Smolinski 12, Chris Harris 9+1, Danny King 9+1, Jason Doyle 8+1, Nico Covatti 6+1, Josh Auty 5+1.

Boxers join the ranks of paid fighters

NEW professional boxing duo Des Bowater and Tom Stokes reckon the time is right to punch for pay as they prepare for their professional debuts tomorrow.

The two boxed for Wodensborough ABC as amateurs but join the paid ranks at Walsall Town Hall on the undercard of Martin Gethin's IBF final eliminator against Ammeth Diaz.

Bowater, a 100-lb super-featherweight, has reached the last two senior ABA Midlands finals.

West Bromwich welter-weight Stokes will pit his wits against wily veteran Bheki Moyo, a South African-born Londoner.

He said: "It's a dream to turn pro on such a big night of boxing. Bheki Moyo is an experienced opponent, so it's a good first test for me."

Hat-trick plus one as Ahmed sparks victory

OLD HILL got their first Birmingham and District Division One win of the campaign in a five-wicket victory over Shifnal.

The visitors reached 195-6 before Waqas Ahmed (4-23) took four wickets in four balls to bring their innings to a juddering halt.

Nitesh Patel (62) and skipper Danny Cox then took over to earn Old Hill a much-needed victory.

Cricket

Shoaiz Ali denied them. Former Warwickshire seamer Naqash Tahir did the damage with the bat as Smethwick recorded a 69-run win over Brewood in Division One.

He hit an unbeaten 52 in Smethwick's 184 all out, while South African paceman Morne Heyneke claimed 5-23 for the visitors.

Brewood then collapsed to 115 all out in reply with Shakeel Raja claiming 4-22 and Kuldeep Diwan 3-15.

West Indian overseas star Auddy Alexander struck an unbeaten 127 as Stourbridge recorded a 109-run win over Eastnor to go fifth in Division Two.

The hosts chased down the total with more than seven overs to spare as Tim Maxfield took 4-61.

Wombourne lost by two runs to Walmley after the hosts had been restricted to 237-9 thanks to Ed Denham (4-22) and Michael Hill (3-35).

Wombourne appeared to be cruising with Jack Bidulph (85) and Mark Fisher (83) at the crease, but superb bowling from

Stour made 286-4 batting first with Adam Lawley also scoring 54. Eastnor could only muster 177-8.

Halesowen's excellent run came to a halt as they were beaten by nine wickets at home to Whitchurch. Wes Griffiths' side were skittled out for just 84.

Fordhouses lost at home to Coventry and North Warwickshire despite Ian Walker's unbeaten 83.

First-class! Club celebrate league promotion



Warley firsts are celebrating promotion after finishing runners-up to St Leonards in Midlands Five West (North)

RUGBY players at Warley are celebrating promotion to Midlands League Four level.

Warley firsts finished runners-up in Midlands Five West (North), but had a two-week wait before confirmation of their advancement to the next league was received.

Next season Warley will face new and tough competition in a division that stretches from Cannock to

Cleobury Mortimer. Club chairman Dick Timmons said: "The entire club is delighted that their hard work has been rewarded with promotion."

The club, based on Tat Bank Road in Oldbury, boast five rugby teams and a host of homegrown talent in the new first team, but are still looking for new players.

Head coach John Mahon said: "Securing promotion is fantastic for

the club and it is a great time to join us for anyone that would like to play rugby."

With an RFU clubmark seal of approval, the club continue to develop in both youth and women's rugby.

Training sessions are throughout the week for men's, youth and women's sections. Anyone interested should email hello@warleyrfc.co.uk or call 07973 172795.

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Back to winning ways for George

The George 212 Moor Lane 196
AFTER three straight defeats, The George firsts got back to winning ways with a home bowl win against Moor Lane.

The first four got off to a great start in this Warwick and Worcester Premier Division One fixture. There were big wins for the Warley outfit from 21-year-old Elliott McGuinness (21-4) and 23-year-old Marc Wilson (21-7), supported by Pete Davenport's 21-15 success to set up a 26-shot lead.

Moor Lane fought hard to reduce the arrears in the middle four games but wins from Alan Belcher (21-17) and Steve Dicken (21-20) helped keep The George 18 shots in front. Each side had two winners in the last four but wins for Steve Darling (21-11) and Stuart Meddings (21-17) gave The George a 16-shot victory.

Nordley B 217 The George 202

The seconds continued to find life difficult away from home in the South Staffs' Premier Division. But they managed to put in their best performance on the road so far this season at Nordley B.

Wins by Ray Broadfield (21-11) and Keith Walton (21-18) helped them to a four-shot lead after the first four games. There were wins by Mick McGuinness (21-14) and John Deakin (21-20) in the middle four but Nordley then led by six.

In the final four games, 17-year-old Will Freeman (21-7) was the only winner for the visitors.

Baldwin 225 The George 204

The thirds suffered their first defeat of the season in Warwick and Worcester Alliance Division Three.

They never quite found the pace. Only Lee Dicken (21-11) and Terry Williams (21-19) won in the first eight encounters. Bob Sansom (21-9) and Paul Rose (21-18) did their best in the last four.

Brummies riding high

BIRMINGHAM fired up their Elite League speedway challenge by scooping nine points in six days.

The Selco Brummies edged out league leaders Wolves 46-44 at home last Wednesday before stunning reigning champions Swindon 47-45 at Blundson the following night.

And on Monday they took a famous 49-41 victory at Wolves.

Reports - Page 35

Meeting legend has inspired me, says Truman

CHRIS TRUMAN believes meeting boxing legend, Roy Jones Junior, has inspired him ahead of his British Masters title showdown with Stephen Jennings.

The Erdington-born light-welterweight met the four-weight world champion at The Hawthorns, writes Daniel Mole.

The Fighter of the Decade for the 1990s – as voted by the Boxing Writers Association of America – appeared at West Bromwich Albion's home stadium for a sporting dinner.

Truman, who takes on Jennings at the Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham on Saturday,

Boxing

day, June 29 went along as a guest of promoter Marcus Anderson.

The 28-year-old has drawn inspiration from speaking to Jones, the only boxer in history to start his career as a light-middleweight and go on to win a heavyweight title. It was a real honour to meet him," said Truman.

"He's a boxing legend and he had so many stories to tell. He's an inspiration.

"I shook his hand and had a good chat with him about my own career," added

Truman. He told me to keep working hard and putting in the hours in the gym and I'll get my rewards.

"You look at him, in such good shape for a 44-year-old, and it makes you realise that if you live the life, you can achieve things.

"Meeting Roy was amazing and he's inspired me ahead of the Jennings fight.

Features

"It will be a tough test but, after listening to Roy talk about being a four-weight champion, it makes you realise that anything is possible."

As well as Truman versus Jennings, It's-a-

A-Bout-Boxing's 'Salvation: Rise of the Trumamator' bill also features Coventry super-featherweight Troy "Terrifying" James, Burton welterweight Tom Shaw and Welsh light-middleweight prospect, Warren Sinden.

Northampton lightweight, Jamie Spence, and prospects Michael Mooney and Ainsley Seiwright complete the card at the Institute.

Tickets are priced at £25 general, £50 ringside and £75 VIP ringside.

They are available by calling the box office on 0845 467 3930 or 07888 870 650.

Batting blitz for unlikely victory

Himley 320-3, WB Dartmouth 321-5. Dartmouth won by five wickets

DARTMOUTH won an extraordinary Birmingham and District Premier match after chasing down a mammoth target.

Himley skipper Greg Wright hit a monumental 186 – the highest individual score ever made at Sandwell Park – in an opening partnership of 292 with Jamie Harris (87).

The game seemed beyond Dartmouth's reach, but they had to chase under the 50-over win-lose format.

Kadeer Ali (57) and Basit Zaman (51) put on 106 for the first wicket to give the home side a chance.

There were useful contributions from Nav Poonia (34) Rawlston Tappin (34) and Mehrab Ahmed (33) but it was a stunning 88 not out off just 60 balls from Zeeshan Asif that saw Dartmouth home with nine balls to spare for a win which put them third in the table.

WB Dartmouth 152, Stratford 153-4. Stratford won by six wickets

Hiran Dhoobal top scored for Dartmouth seconds with 42, but Stratford eased past that total for a six-wicket win. Dartmouth bowlers Jack Hobbs and Anaesh Patel each took two wickets.

Codsall 90, WB Dartmouth 91-5. Dartmouth won by five wickets

Mohin Khan's 3-22 helped peg Codsall to 90 all out. Dartmouth thirds struggled in reply, but youngster Amit John's 24 got them home.

Codsall 125, WB Dartmouth 127-4. Dartmouth won by six wickets

Sanesh Patel's 5-20 and Rikesh Patel's 78 ensured an easy win for the fourths.

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EAGLES MAY SWOOP FOR ODEMWINIGIE

ALBION hope Crystal Palace's dramatic return to the Premier League could help trigger a summer scramble for Hawthorns outcast Peter Odemwingie.

The Baggies will look to offload the Nigeria international after his acrimonious fall-out with the club. And they will hope the Eagles' victory in Monday's Championship play-off final against Watford could add another potential buyer to the mix, driving up any transfer fee.

Palace considered a move for Odemwingie in January and contact was made with the 31-year-old's former representatives, but the interest was never firmled up with the player not keen on Championship football and Albion unwilling to consider a loan.

However, the Eagles' rise to the top flight – with a guaranteed minimum £120m windfall including parachute payments – will increase their spending power significantly and could see a renewed effort to land Odemwingie.

Admirer
Palace need to replace star forward Wilfried Zaha, who will complete his move to Manchester United after signing in January before returning to Selhurst Park on loan.

And leading scorer Glenn Murray is likely to miss the first half of the Premier campaign after damaging a crucial knee ligament.

Hull are also monitoring Odemwingie with Tigers boss Steve Bruce a long-standing admirer.

Palace's elevation was secured by a penalty fired home by former Albion, Villa and Blues favourite Kevin Phillips.

If he is offered a deal by Palace and plays next season, he would be at 40 the oldest

Britain's silver service spearheaded by Whiley



Jordanne Whiley in action for Great Britain's women during the World Team Cup event in Antalya, Turkey

WHEELCHAIR tennis star Jordanne Whiley spearheaded Great Britain to silver in the women's World Team Cup.

The Halesowen ace won four of her five matches in the competition at Antalya, Turkey as the No.3 seeds got all the way to the final before bowing out 2-0 to the Netherlands.

Whiley opened with a 6-2, 7-5 success against Macarena Cabrilana as Great Britain eased past Chile 3-0 and then beat Lolo Ochoa 6-2, 6-2 as Spain succumbed by a similar score.

That put GB into a tough semi-final against the No.2 seeds, Germany. Whiley, 20, battled back from a set

down to win her opening singles rubber against Katharina Kruger 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. But in the second singles rubber, Lucy Shuker was unable to match her victory over Sabine Ellerbroek in last year's bronze medal play-off.

The German player fought back from an early 3-0 deficit to level the contest with a 6-3, 6-1 victory.

That left the result hinging on the doubles – and the Shuker/Whiley pair quickly recreated their 2012 Paralympic bronze medal form with a dominant 6-1, 6-2 victory to send the team through to their second World Team

Cup final, having first done so on home soil in Nottingham in 2009.

Britain could not upset the odds in the final against the top-seeded Netherlands. The Dutch dominate at the top level with four of the world's top six and Whiley went down 7-5, 6-2 to world No.2 Jiske Griffioen while Shuker was beaten 6-3, 6-2 by world No.1 Aniek Van Koot.

Whiley said: "I'm so proud that we were able to get to the final. I've had a bronze and a silver in the World Team Cup at senior level, so the next logical step is for Lucy and I to push on and make it a gold next time around."

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